

Ehud: Left Handed, Right Minded

Judges 3

Introduction:

The situation hasn't changed any... the events of Judges 3 happened 3300 years ago and yet God's principles and purpose is still the same... to use specific, "one of a kind" individuals to help bring the message of Jesus to a wayward world. You Can Make A Difference.

God's people had one again fallen into sin ... so... as we often see in scripture and I think it is still true today... God uses non-believing people to administer His discipline.

- So... God raises up the nation of Moab, in particular, a king named Eglon.
- Eglon comes in and takes the city of Palms, which is the city of Jericho and subjects the land of Israel to his leadership.
- For the next 18 years, Israel is subject to Moab and pays a tribute (tax) annually even though technically it's their land.

Ehud has been chosen from the tribe of Benjamin, of which he is a part, to take the tribute money into the land of Moab to pay to the king and while he is there he draws a sword and kills the king, Eglon and that's the beginning of the battle that frees the Israelites for the next 80 years.

PROPOSITION:

So let's jump into the specifics of this narrative and see the truths of how one man made a difference and see if we can't apply these truths to our lives as well.

I. Serve God With Your Qualities (Judges 3:15)

- We have all been given specific qualities, different abilities that set us apart for God's plan.

"Then the people of Israel cried out to the Lord, and the Lord raised up for them a deliverer, Ehud, the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, a left-handed man. The people of Israel sent tribute by him to Eglon the king of Moab."

❖ **Left-handed**

❖ **We also note that Ehud with from the tribe of Benjamin.**

❖ **It would appear that he was a common laborer...** most likely a metal worker... or blacksmith.

Application:

Though the world might have seen each of these "qualities" in a negative light... Ehud saw them as "gifts" to be used to serve God.

The same needs to happen as you view yourself... or as you view other people.

There was nothing really unique about Ehud... there were many left-handed soldiers... there were thousands of Benjaminites... and I'm sure 10's of thousands of metal workers or blacksmiths across the lands... BUT... he used those qualities to make a difference.

❖ **But perhaps the most important thing about Ehud was his integrity.**

- ⇒ He had a good reputation among his peers.
- ⇒ How do I know that?

→ **They trusted him with the tribute money.**

Application:

- ❖ I don't know what God has in store for you... but I believe there is a specific task that you have been called to do.
 - ⇒ It may be for one shining, brilliant moment that you use your specific talents and gifts for His kingdom.
 - ⇒ You may be the one person who can accomplish what God needs done at a given point in time.
 - ⇒ Don't look at your characteristics or qualities as disabilities, but rather look at them as opportunities.

- ❖ Above all else... Ehud was a man who had the trust of his peers. Do we have the trust of those around us?

The second quality:

II. You Face Specific Circumstances.

- ❖ Through those circumstances ... learn to trust God.

Judges 3:15c-16

"... The people of Israel sent tribute by him to Eglon the king of Moab. 16And Ehud made for himself a sword with two edges, a cubit (18 inches) in length, and he bound it on his right thigh under his clothes."

- ❖ Someone has said... "Timing is everything."
 - I'm not sure that is totally true... unless you are a trapeze artist.
 - But I do believe that "timing is critical."

- ❖ BUT... God's timing is always perfect.
 - It may not seem like it to use at the time... But God's timing is perfect.
 - The Bible records often... phrases like... "at the right time" or "at the appointed time" ... God's timing is always right.

Application:

Our lives are a walk of faith in the master plan of God. You may not ever be prompted by God to do something as bold as what Ehud did.

- ❖ The Bible never says to take a "leap of faith"... it says, "step of faith or walk by faith."

The last truth to see here...

III. We Are Promised A Great Victory. (Judges 3:28-30)

²⁸ And he said to them, "Follow after me, for the LORD has given your enemies the Moabites into your hand." So they went down after him and seized the fords of the Jordan against the Moabites and did not allow anyone to pass over. ²⁹ And they killed at that time about 10,000 of the Moabites, all strong, able-bodied men; not a man escaped. ³⁰ So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest for eighty years.

❖ Ehud made a good judge because he did not presume that the come victory would be the result of his own leadership or his own tactical planning or his own purpose or plan.

➡ Ehud said... *"Follow after me, for the LORD has given your enemies the Moabites into your hands."*

Life in Christ is always victorious.

➡ It's not always easy.

➡ It's not always fun.

➡ BUT... it is always victorious.

Hebrews 11:39-40

³⁹ And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.