

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Date: 08/02/26

Sermon: Ted Rastatter/Unlikely Saviors

Text: Judges 3:12-31

Questions: Jerry Shiver

This week Pastor Ted continued in the Book of Judges where the Israelites, after being saved 40 years earlier by Othniel, repeat their pattern of “doing evil in the eyes of the Lord”. As a result, God gives them over to the evil Moab King Eglon (whose name means calf in Hebrew). After 18 years of suffering the Israelites cry out to God for his deliverance and God gives them Ehud, a left-handed Benjamite as their deliverer. While the story pattern is the same, the details of this somewhat bizarre story emphasize how God continues to save His people through unconventional means and individuals.

Main Point: God saves with unlikely means through unlikely saviors.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read the story of Ehud in verses 12 – 30. Ted asked “Why is this in the Bible?” and said maybe it would be easier to just skip over. What does the Bible tell us in 2 Tim 3:16 and Lk 24:27? Ted mentioned several possible reactions (embarrassment, graphically violent, darkly comic) to a casual reading of this passage. What was your initial take away? Why do you think God included this level of detail in his Holy Word, what does this say about the contents of the Bible overall (believable, slanted, truthful)?
2. On a deeper level, briefly discuss what the following details tell us about this story: loss of the City of Palms (Jerico), idols at Gilgal, left-handed man (Hebrew word is “Itar” meaning restricted or impeded in his right hand), a Benjamite (Jgs 20:15-16), tribute, and very fat-man?
3. Compare Ehud, a Benjamite with Shamgar, the son of Anath v31. How does this support Ted’s main point? Read 1 Cor 1:27-29 and discuss how this compares to what the world tells us. Read Eph 3:10 and discuss how (or do) our ordinary acts of faithfulness to God apply in our everyday lives and within the body.
4. Read verses 26-27. Ted identifies this passing by the idols at Gilgal as another exodus for Israel where their new savior Ehud proved the idols to be lifeless and powerless and says “Follow after me”. Read Col 2:13-15, Matt 28:28-29 and Rom 8:11 and discuss the power and authority that Ehud and Shamgar had, to what Jesus has given us individually and as a body.
5. Ted closed with tough questions: If you believe Jesus lives, if you believe He has won the battle, will you follow after Him? Will you pass by and leave behind the old gods? Will you pass by and leave behind the idols that have taken root in your heart? The things that might have crept in after God already set up His memorial. Question to myself, what are my hidden idols? Heb 4:12 tells me I have work to do.