

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Date: 26 July 2026

Text: Judges 3: 7-11

Sermon: Ted Rastatter

Questions: Carter Moran

This week Ted preached about the first judge in the book of Judges, Othniel. With Othniel, we see the start of a pattern that will go through the rest of the book of Judges. Israel disobeys, God disciplines, the people cry out, God shows mercy and raises up a judge to save Israel in which after, the people enjoy a time of rest. Eventually the judge dies and the pattern starts over. Ted highlights why this pattern continues along with a list of problems. The problem with people, passion, pride, power and permanence. With these problems we only have one solution and that is Jesus Christ.

1. We live “coram deo” (before the face of God). God sees everything we do. The problem with people is that we forget we live “coram deo” and are easily tempted by our own desires. Read James 1: 14-15, The enemy will use the world to tempt us with our deep desires, and God challenges us. Does God challenge you? Do you want and desire God or His good gifts? Discuss ways you are tempted by your own desires and how God challenges us to appeal to Christ.
2. God pursues His people through judgment. Read Isaiah 26: 9. God uses what can be called a severe mercy which we see in verse 8. The good news is that God disciplines us for our good. He uses it to heal us and to make us better. Discuss times in your life you may have been disciplined by God and how it shaped you for the better.
3. It takes the people of Israel 8 years to cry out to God while under the rule of Cushan-rishathaim. Why do we refuse help? We need the mercy of Christ. Hell is filled with people who refused to cry out for help. The power of the Holy Spirit came upon Othniel and with it He defeated Cushan-rishathaim. We are completely powerless without Christ. Discuss areas in your life where you need help, use this time to encourage each other.

Conclusion: For all these problems Christ our only solution, he is our helper. Encourage each other to call upon him constantly.