

# SERMON NOTES:

A Journey Through Judges and the Cost of Compromise

Part 3: God Still Delivers ...But Something is Changing

**BIG Idea:** God's mercy continues to deliver—but our compromise can reshape how that deliverance looks.

**Application:** Don't confuse God's activity in your life with His approval—return to wholehearted devotion.

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**God's mercy continues to deliver – but our compromise can reshape how that deliverance looks.**

**Judges 3:12-15 (NLT) *Ehud Becomes Israel's Judge***

<sup>12</sup>Once again the Israelites did evil in the Lord's sight, and the Lord gave King Eglon of Moab control over Israel because of their evil. <sup>13</sup>Eglon enlisted the Ammonites and Amalekites as allies, and then he went out and defeated Israel, taking possession of Jericho, the city of palms. <sup>14</sup>And the Israelites served Eglon of Moab for eighteen years.

<sup>15</sup>But when the people of Israel cried out to the Lord for help, the Lord again raised up a rescuer to save them. His name was Ehud son of Gera, a left-handed man of the tribe of Benjamin. The Israelites sent Ehud to deliver their tribute money to King Eglon of Moab.

1. The pattern isn't just repeating – it's deepening.

**Sin, left unchecked, doesn't just repeat. It deepens.**

**James 1:14-15 (NLT)**

<sup>14</sup>Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. <sup>15</sup>These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

**Compromise doesn't stay contained – it compounds.**

2. God still delivers...but through unsettling means.

**Judges 3:15-18 (NLT)**

<sup>15</sup>But when the people of Israel cried out to the Lord for help, the Lord again raised up a rescuer to save them. His name was Ehud son of Gera, a left-handed man of the tribe of Benjamin. The Israelites sent Ehud to deliver their tribute money to King Eglon of Moab. <sup>16</sup>So Ehud made a double-edged dagger that was about a foot long, and he strapped it to his right thigh, keeping it hidden under his clothing. <sup>17</sup>He brought the tribute money to Eglon, who was very fat.

<sup>18</sup>After delivering the payment, Ehud started home with those who had helped carry the tribute.

### **Judges 3:19-26 (NLT)**

<sup>19</sup> But when Ehud reached the stone idols near Gilgal, he turned back. He came to Eglon and said, "I have a secret message for you."

So the king commanded his servants, "Be quiet!" and he sent them all out of the room.

<sup>20</sup> Ehud walked over to Eglon, who was sitting alone in a cool upstairs room. And Ehud said, "I have a message from God for you!" As King Eglon rose from his seat, <sup>21</sup> Ehud reached with his left hand, pulled out the dagger strapped to his right thigh, and plunged it into the king's belly. <sup>22</sup> The dagger went so deep that the handle disappeared beneath the king's fat. So Ehud did not pull out the dagger, and the king's bowels emptied. <sup>23</sup> Then Ehud closed and locked the doors of the room and escaped down the latrine.

<sup>24</sup> After Ehud was gone, the king's servants returned and found the doors to the upstairs room locked. They thought he might be using the latrine in the room, <sup>25</sup> so they waited. But when the king didn't come out after a long delay, they became concerned and got a key. And when they opened the doors, they found their master dead on the floor.

<sup>26</sup> While the servants were waiting, Ehud escaped, passing the stone idols on his way to Seirah.

**A compromised heart learns how to sound spiritual without being surrendered.**

### **Romans 6:1-2 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? <sup>2</sup> Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?

**God's mercy explains why He still works – it doesn't excuse why we drift.**

### **3. The victory is real...but something is off.**

#### **Judges 3:27-30 (NLT)**

<sup>27</sup> When he arrived in the hill country of Ephraim, Ehud sounded a call to arms. Then he led a band of Israelites down from the hills.

<sup>28</sup> "Follow me," he said, "for the Lord has given you victory over Moab your enemy." So they followed him. And the Israelites took control of the shallow crossings of the Jordan River across from Moab, preventing anyone from crossing.

<sup>29</sup> They attacked the Moabites and killed about 10,000 of their strongest and most able-bodied warriors. Not one of them escaped. <sup>30</sup> So Moab was conquered by Israel that day, and there was peace in the land for eighty years.

**Not every victory reflects spiritual health.**

#### **Matthew 7:21-23 (NLT) *True Disciples***

<sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. <sup>22</sup> On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord!

Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’<sup>23</sup> But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’

**Judges 3:31 (NLT)**

<sup>31</sup> After Ehud, Shamgar son of Anath rescued Israel. He once killed 600 Philistines with an ox goad.

**God hasn’t changed – but His people have, and it’s beginning to show.**

**2 Peter 3:9 (NLT)**

<sup>9</sup>The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

**God will meet you in your drift – but He’s calling you back to devotion.**