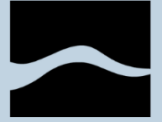


SERMON NOTES

A STRANGE ASSASSINATION (JUDGES 3:12–30)

STRANGE STORIES, PECULIAR GLORIES



BIG IDEA: Sin enslaves. Deliverance is messy. The battle belongs to the Lord.

APPLICATION GUIDE

April 12, 2026

DISCUSS

Read Judges 2:11–16. What is the repeated cycle in Judges? And how does this frame the strange assassination story, particularly as it is introduced in Judges 3:12–14?

Look at Exodus 15:6–9 and Psalm 98:1. What is God’s right hand associated with? Why is Ehud described as a left-handed Benjamite (Hebrew: “son of the right hand”), and why does that matter?

How does the repeated use of the word “hand” function in this strange story? (Cf. Judges 2:14–16).

Ehud is a “left-handed” man (3:15)

Israel’s tribute to Moab was sent “by his hand” (3:15)

Ehud carries out the assassination of Eglon “with his left hand” (3:21)

Ehud indicates that Yahweh has given the Moabites “into your [Israel’s] hands” (3:28)

Moab is subdued “under the hand of Israel” (3:30)

What literary techniques (irony, humor, satire, reversal) are at work in this narrative?

APPLY

How does this passage challenge your assumptions about how God works (through unlikely people or messy means)?

Where are you tempted to believe God cannot use you because you feel weak, overlooked, or “unexpected” (i.e., metaphorically left-handed)?

What are you “feasting on” that may be dulling your spiritual sensitivity (media, affirmation, comfort, etc.)? What “fat kings” might be sitting on the throne of your heart?

What would it look like for you to make war on sin instead of managing it? Where are you resisting the kind of deep-cutting deliverance God wants to bring?

COMMIT

Identify one specific idol, sin, or unwise habit that has taken the throne of your heart and take one step to remove the source that feeds your sin (an app, a habit, a relationship, a pattern of isolation, etc.).