

Left-Handed Salvation
Judges 3:7-31
1-29-23

I. OTHNIEL – The Faithful Judge

Judges 3:11-12a - *"So the land had rest forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died. And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD."*

~ The most faithful judge could only bring temporary salvation.

II. DISCIPLINE

Judges 3:12b - *"...and the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done what was evil in the sight of the LORD."*

~ God's discipline opens the door for His salvation.

III. THEME

~ How God saves His people in their afflictions and mess.

IV. EHUD

Judges 3:15b - *"...and the LORD raised up for them a deliverer, Ehud, the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, a left-handed man."*

~ Ehud was raised up by God to be a savior of His people.

V. HOW DOES GOD SAVE HIS PEOPLE HERE?

1. Saves in our weakness.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 - *"For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'"*

2. Saves in unlikely ways.

GROWING DEEPER THIS WEEK

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. Why is it important for God to include a very interesting story like Ehud in the Bible?
3. Look at Judges 3:12 again. What are some wrong ways that we see God's discipline today?
4. How can these wrong views of discipline be dangerous to our theology or even what we pass on to the next generation? How should we view God's discipline in our lives?
5. When in your own life have you seen God use unexpected people or unpredictable means to do great things? How did this help you grow in your understanding of God?
6. Why is it easy for us to forget God's strength and rely upon our own strength? What are some ways in which we do this?
7. How can we remind ourselves of our weak position before our omnipotent God? Why is it important that we do this?

READ 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

8. Paul reveals to us in verse 29 God's purpose for saving through weakness...what is it? Why is this important for us to understand?
9. How does it encourage you that God works through our weaknesses?
10. In your parenting and discipling of the next generation...is it ok for them to see your weakness or should they only see your strength? Why?
11. What could your weaknesses teach the next generation about God?