

Judges part 2 – Othniel and Ehud – Judges 3. I want to ask everyone to follow along in bible

We explained last week how the history of God's people is a bit of a roller coaster ride and we looked at how we ourselves can battle spiritual inconsistency....

This week we begin in ch. 3 and we continue to see the spiritual inconsistency of Israel and its rooted in their continuing disobedience

We learned last week in 2:3, a very important promise God says that he would leave the Canaanites in the land since Israel refused to remove them, they would become "thorns in their sides and their gods would become snares"

This verse is foreshadowing the problems the Israelites will face and will point us to see God's plan for redemption

The big Idea throughout the book of judges = the stories of the Judges point us to a perfect savior

Beginning in Ch. 3 God allows an entirely new generation to experience war, in order that they might see their need for God

Instead of learning from their history....Israel doubles down – v.5. NOT V.6

Would anyone in the room admit to being hard headed? Most of us.....have you ever been on the wrong side of a losing argument....most people will let it be, but not us hard headed people.....nooo.....we will double down

Tony Romo is the best quarterback of all time.....meanwhile the people in New England are looking at you like you are crazy.....most people would let it go, but no.....you double down....Tony Romo is the best statistical qb in the 4th q ever

That's what Israel is doing here in v.5....they have started to go through these cycles of obedience and disobedience.....you would think, they would eventually learn.....but guess what? WE never DO

and then their punishment arrives in v.6 – again, reflecting us back to 2:3 thorns and gods

if there is anything in the bible that gives me the assurance that God will never leave me or forsake me.....that he will never turn his back on me.....its his relationship with the Israelites

The thing to always remember about the relationship between God and his people....is that it wasn't a contract

God's relationship between him and his people was a Covenant....a promise made between 2 or more people, and both agree to keep their promise regardless as to whether the other person does...

This is an awesome thing, that God would want to enter into a covenant with his people.....its an awesome thing that we are allowed to be grafted into that covenant.....why....because we are unable to keep a covenant....our history proves we will break a covenant every time.....however, God is not capable of breaking a covenant.....

The example in Judges 3 proves this to us, that God never breaks his covenant.....

And that is good news because of v.7. and again in v.12

Why is that good news? Because even in the midst of our rebellion, our refusals for obedience, and when we turn our backs on God.....he still listens to repentance

First God gives Othniel, a little known judge from the tribe of Judah that brings victory to Israel....

Why did God give Othniel – v.9. the people of God cry out in desperation

God allows them to experience pure misery, why? In order that they might see their need for him.....

And you would think, that this would only happen once.....

But we know better right.....we know because we know our own hearts.....

And so after 40 years of peace and rest (basically a generation). Othniel dies.....and what happens....God's people again rebel.....they are taken into captivity by the evil king Eglon.....

It took 18 YEARS for God's people to figure something out.....hey, remember that time our grandparents were in a similar position with Mesopotamia.....and gpop and gmaw called out to God and he sent them Othniel....lets try that again....

v.15. God is faithful, and along comes Ehud

Lets look at what we know about Ehud – 1. Form the tribe of Benjamin. 2.he was a lefty – left handed – southpaw

Do we have any left handed people in the room? I want to talk to them real quick....

1. Are there any disadvantages to being left handed that us right handed folks never think of?
(zippers, scissors, playing cards)
2. Are there any advantages...
(statistically greater chance of iq over 140, see underwater better, sports most of us aren't used to a L)

Few other things about Lefties – they have always throughout history been considered strange

Lets remember.....Ehud is a lefty...this is important, b/c this story gets interesting.....and kinda gross

They gather a tribute (money) to send to Eglon – this was basically a way of buying peace so that he wouldn't bother

They choose Ehud to take the tribute to Eglon

He crafts a sword – (2 edges, cubit long). Bounds it on his right thigh under his clothes....

He goes to Eglon with his sword on his right thigh, he would enter the chamber and go through a pat down....but they would only pat down....his left thigh....why.....b/c most people are righties.....

v.17-23. Go through it

this detail of this story lends us to believe this was a comedic retelling.....all of the men would have been sitting around the camp fire, and there would have been outlandish laughing....

The source of the laughing is that Ehud.....pulled a fast one on Eglon.....and the story culminates with Ehud escaping and for about another 80 years....the people have peace.....

So what does this story tell us about God and how does this story point us to Jesus....

1. It tells us that Gods savior will be a complete surprise
 - a. Something very important is now happening In the biblical timeline.....the cycle of sin and repentance, and the raising up of unexpected saviors (Judges begins with Joshua (powerful) and goes on to Deborah, Gideon, Samson, and after Judges comes David....a little shepherd)
 - b. Ehuds victory over Eglon was a complete surprise, unexpected.... 2. He surprised Eglon with a sword that he was able to hide because he was a lefty
2. It tells us that we will be saved by the “foolishness” of faith
 - a. Being left handed was seen as weakness
 - b. The Latin word for left is the word sinister.....
 - c. French word – gauche (goash) – awkward
 - d. The English word Left comes from an old English word that meant “weak and foolish”
 - e. Prior to the 19th century and throughout history.....left handedness was considered a disability
3. It tells us that no matter what, God will always forgive and restore when we seek forgiveness
 - a. When you became a believer God makes a covenant with you (Dt 31:6, HB 13:5)
 - b. God is not capable of breaking promises, and broke the cycle of sin for us
 - c. He did so through the perfect Judge.....Jesus