

“God Can Use Anyone”

Judges #03

Judges 3:7-31

January 29, 2017

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:21-25

Introduction

- In God’s story, he combines some surprising flavors!

Big Idea: God delights in using people who don’t measure up to man’s expectations. Nowhere is this more on display than in the person and work of Jesus.

Today, looking at three judges in quick succession.

- Six Major Judges: Othniel, Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson
- Six Minor Judges: Shamgar, Tola, Jair, Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon
- One anti-judge: Abimelech

I. Othniel | vs. 7-11

Sin and Idolatry | vs. 7-9a

1. True repentance is a gift from God that breaks our hearts and turns us to him.

1. Godly grief vs. worldly sorrow | 2 Corinthians 7:10-11
2. Repentance is a gift from God | 2 Timothy 2:25-26
3. Hope is in Jesus, not repentance | Ephesians 2:8-9

The Noble Deliverer | vs. 9-11

What Can We Know About Othniel?

1. Good family background
2. Good wife
3. He led by the power of the Holy Spirit

II. Ehud | vs. 12-30

A Really Bad King | vs. 12-14

The Surprising Deliverer | vs. 15-25

2. God is not afraid of our messy lives.

- Dale Ralph Davis — The glory of this text is that it tells us that Yahweh is not a white-gloved, standoffish God out somewhere in the remote left field of the universe

who hesitates to get his strong right arm dirty in the yuck of our lives. The God of the Bible does not hold back in the wild blue yonder somewhere waiting for you to pour Clorox and spray Lysol over the affairs of your life before he will touch it. Whether you can comfortably put it together or not, he is the God who delights to deliver his people even in their messes and likes to make them laugh again; he is the God who allows weeping to endure for a night but sees that joy comes in the morning.

Victory Over Moab | vs. 26-30

III. Shamgar | vs. 31

The Obscure Deliverer

³¹ After him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who killed 600 of the Philistines with an oxgoad, and he also saved Israel.

What Can We Know About Shamgar?

1. Mixed background
2. Good warrior
3. Likely a poor farmer

3. God delights in using surprising people to accomplish his purposes

- **1 Corinthians 1:21-25**

IV. Gospel Connection

1. Like Othniel, Jesus had a good family background: connected to King David
2. Like Shamgar, Jesus came from a poor family: mom accused of adultery
3. Like Ehud, Jesus appeared weak according to the world's standards
4. Like Othniel, Jesus led by the power of the Holy Spirit
5. Like Ehud, Jesus defeated the enemy and put him to shame
6. Like Shamgar, Jesus defeated the enemy with the most unlikely implement of all: the cross

Conclusion

Benediction

1 Corinthians 15:58 — Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.