

Right in Their Own Eyes:

An Exposition of Judges

Lesson Three: Go with Your Gut! [Judges 3]

Opening Illustration: The Bible sometimes tells us a lot in the things that it doesn't tell us. **ILL:** Martin Luther's Biography and why it is different than any other biography I have read.¹

I. Introduction/Review

A. What is the basic theme of the book of Judges?

1. What goes around, comes around.
 - a. See Judges 1:7
2. We saw last week that this is not only true for individuals, but for the nation of Israel as a whole.
3. We talked about how we, very often, fall into these same patterns.

B. What will we see tonight?

1. Tonight, we are going to see that some Judges get a lot more attention than others.
2. In this, we will understand that no news is good news.
 - a. Why? Because the book of Judges isn't shy about negative details.

II. The Cycle Continues (vv. 1-8)

A. Israel, Judges and the art of war (vv. 1-2)

1. What did God do?
 - a. God strategically left some of the nations in the land of Canaan.
2. Why did God do this?
 - a. To test them (compare v. 4)
 - b. To teach them war.

B. Who were the bad guys?

1. **Judges 3:3** *These nations are:* the five lords of the Philistines and all the Canaanites and the Sidonians and the Hivites who lived in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal-hermon as far as Lebo-hamath.

C. Here we go again! (vv. 6-9)

1. We see that cycle again!
 - a. They intermarried with the people of the surrounding cultures.
 - b. They did evil in the sight of the Lord.
 - c. They were miserable as a result.

III. Othniel (vv. 9-14)

A. The people cry out (v. 9)

B. The Lord raises up a deliverer.

1. It is remarkable that God would help them.
2. The word "deliverer" translates the Hebrew word "מֹשִׁיעַ" which comes from the same root as Jesus' name.
3. The Spirit of the Lord comes upon him.
 - a. This ministry of the Spirit was for certain purposes.
 - b. This ministry of the Spirit was not necessarily permanent.
 - i. Ex: King Saul experienced this when he prophesied and temporarily as he served as king. Sadly, the Spirit was taken away from him and was replaced with an evil spirit.
 - a) See 1 Samuel 10:10-12
 - b) See 1 Samuel 16:14, 23

¹ I would highly recommend the biography of Martin Luther written by Roland Bainton. Here is the Amazon link: [Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther: Bainton, Roland H.: 9781426754432: Amazon.com: Books](https://www.amazon.com/Here-I-Stand-A-Life-of-Martin-Luther-Bainton-Roland-H/dp/9781426754432)

C. What do we know about Othniel?

1. He is mentioned in chapter 1
2. He was the son of Kenaz.
3. He was Caleb's nephew (or half-brother)
4. He was a mighty warrior.
5. Nothing negative is said about him.
6. The land had rest for 40 years because of the Lord's work through Othniel. Then he dies.

IV. Ehud—A Real Belly Buster! (vv. 15-30)

A. Israel cries out to the Lord...again! (v. 15a)

1. God raises up a deliverer, Ehud.

B. What do we know about Ehud?

1. He was the son of Gera, a Benjamite.
2. He was left handed.
3. He was sent to Eglon as an official messenger.
4. He made a two-edged sword.

C. What do we know about Eglon?

1. He was very fat.
2. He was a little gullible.

D. What happened?

1. Ehud approached Eglon with a secret message (v. 19).
2. Ehud stabbed Eglon—notice the details! (vv. 21-22)
3. Ehud escapes because Eglon's men just thought he was in the bathroom!
4. Ehud then leads a military campaign that succeeds!

E. How does this serve our theme? *What goes around comes around...*

1. Eglon was known for his sloth and laziness, which is why he laid there bleeding for so long.
2. Eglon was foolish and naïve, which is why he was stabbed in the gut.

V. Shamgar (v. 31)

A. What are we told about Shamgar?

1. He was the son of Anath.
2. He struck down 600 Philistines with an oxgoad.
 - a. What is an oxgoad?
3. He also saved Israel.
 - a. That is to say, that he delivered Israel from their military enemies.

B. What don't we know about Shamgar?

1. Basically anything else.
 - a. Was he a deeply spiritual man? No idea.
2. Maybe this was a good thing.

VI. What do we learn from this chapter?

A. Sometimes the Book of Judges says the most when it says the least.

1. We got very little about Shamgar, but comparatively, that seems to ring in our ears as a good thing.
2. We got a lot of information about Ehud's encounter with Eglon, but it was a little grisly.
3. We got some information about Othniel, but not nearly as much as we will get on some of the other Judges.