



When God Chooses the Unexpected to Serve Him

Judges 3
September 4, 2022

The Big Idea: Our God is a God who **hears** the cries of His people, who loves to show **unmerited** mercy and grace in pouring out His salvation, and who accomplishes salvation through the **unlikeliest** of means.

The Repetitive Cycle of Judges

1. **Sin** (Israel does evil in the eyes of Yahweh)
2. Sentence and **servitude** (Yahweh's anger is kindled, and he judges the people by giving them into the hand of oppressors)
3. Supplication (Israel cries to Yahweh for deliverance)
4. **Savior**/Salvation (Yahweh raises up a deliverer who brings deliverance)
5. Shalom (the people and land experiences rest)

Judges 3 (ESV)

3 Now these are the nations that the LORD left, *to test Israel by them*, that is, all in Israel who had not experienced all the wars in Canaan. ²It was only in order that the generations of the people of Israel might know war, to teach war to those who had not known it before. ³These are the nations: the five lords of the Philistines and all the Canaanites and the Sidonians and the Hivites who lived on Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal-hermon as far as Lebo-hamath. ⁴They were *for the testing of Israel*, to know *whether Israel would obey the commandments of the LORD*, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses. ⁵So the people of Israel lived among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁶***And their daughters they took to themselves for wives, and their own daughters they gave to their sons, and they served their gods.***

The First 3 Judges (Deliverers)

- Othniel – a man of great faith in the Lord and **empowered** by the Spirit of the Lord
- Ehud – a man with physical **differences** and maybe even disabilities who creatively found a strategy that led to victory
- Shamgar – a man who used what he **had** to serve the purposes of the Lord

IMPLICATIONS AND APPLICATIONS OF THE SCRIPTURE:

1. All deliverance and salvation are because of the unmerited mercy of our gracious God, not because we **deserved** it. [Titus 3:4-7]
2. The Lord frequently chooses the most **unlikely** people to use for His purposes. For that reason alone, you should always be watching and listening for **opportunities** to serve God in His Kingdom.
3. Serving the Lord begins with what we already have in our lives – abilities, disabilities, tools, knowledge, and experience. Use what you have **now** instead of waiting until you get what you think you need to serve Him. [1 Peter 4:10]
4. Both the kindness of God and discipline of God are for the same end – to lead us to **repentance**. [Romans 2:4; Hebrews 12:4-6]
5. There is a tremendous difference between crying out of pain, desperation, and fear and crying out in repentance from sin. Salvation is God's gift to those who **repent**. [2 Corinthians 7:10]
6. All human deliverers are imperfect in their character and their salvation. We all need the **Perfect** Deliverer who has paid for our sin. Jesus is the only one who can be that for you. [1 Peter 2:22-24]

“What the church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more novel methods, but men whom the Holy Spirit can use—men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. Men are God's method. The Church is looking for better methods: God is looking for better men.”

- E.M. Bounds
