

The
Lefty

Judges 3:12-25

And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done what was evil in the sight of the LORD. He gathered to himself the Ammonites and the Amalekites, and went and defeated Israel. And they took possession of the city of palms.

And the people of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years. Then the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, and the LORD raised up for them a deliverer, Ehud, the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, a left-handed man. The people of Israel sent tribute by him to Eglon the king of Moab. And Ehud made for himself a sword with two edges, a cubit in length, and he bound it on

his right thigh under his clothes. And he presented the tribute to Eglon king of Moab.

Now Eglon was a very fat man. And when Ehud had finished presenting the tribute, he sent away the people who carried the tribute. But he himself turned back at the idols near Gilgal and said, "I have a secret message for you, O king." And he commanded, "Silence."

And all his attendants went out from his presence.

And Ehud came to him as he was sitting alone in his cool roof chamber. And Ehud said, "I have a message from God for you." And he arose from his seat. And Ehud reached with his left hand, took the sword from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly. And the hilt also went in after the blade, and the fat closed over the blade, for he did not pull the sword out of his belly;

and the dung came out. Then Ehud went out into the porch and closed the doors of the roof chamber behind him and locked them. When he had gone, the servants came, and when they saw that the doors of the roof chamber were locked, they thought, "Surely he is relieving himself in the closet of the cool chamber." And they waited till they were embarrassed.

But when he still did not open the doors of the roof chamber, they took the key and opened them, and there lay their lord dead on the floor.

Judges 3:12

And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done what was evil in the sight of the LORD.

Exodus 9:16

(God to Pharaoh)

But for this purpose **I have raised you up**, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.

John 19:11

(Jesus to Pilate)

Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been **given you from above**.”

That God rules men as a builder rules his stones and timber, is the idea of idiots, but that he leaves them men, in full possession of their freedom, and yet achieves the purposes of his grace, is the truth.

- Charles Spurgeon

Judges 3:13

He gathered to himself the **Ammonites** and the **Amalekites**, and went and defeated Israel. And they took possession of the **city of palms.**

Judges 3:14

And the people of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab **eighteen years.**

Judges 3:8

And the people of Israel served Cushan-rishathaim **eight years.**

Judges 3:15

Then the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, and the LORD raised up for them a deliverer, **Ehud**, the son of Gera, the **Benjaminite**, a left-handed man.

Benjamin= “son of my right hand.”

יְמִינֵוּ

him

right side of

אֶפֶר יָד-

hand of

bound

We need to be aware that God has His “irregulars,” who can do great service for Him in highly unusual ways. They do not fit neatly into our systems and controls; they are left-handers.

- David Jackman

Judges 3:16

And Ehud made for himself a sword with two edges, a cubit in length, and he bound it on his right thigh under his clothes.

Judges 3:17

And he presented the **tribute** to Eglon
king of Moab. Now Eglon was a **very**
fat man.

Thus, the references to the “City of Palms,” to Eglon’s fatness, and to the cool upper chamber of his palace expose the vast differences between the lives of the Moabites and the conquered Israelites— inside versus outside, cool versus hot, fatness versus barrenness, palms versus hills.

- K. Lawson Younger

Judges 3:18-20

And when Ehud had finished presenting the tribute, he sent away the people who carried the tribute. But he himself turned back at the idols near Gilgal and said, “I have a secret message for you, O king.” And he commanded, “Silence.” And all his attendants went out from his presence. And Ehud came to him as he was sitting alone in his cool roof chamber. And Ehud said, “I have a message from God for you.”

If Ehud cannot wield a weapon in his right hand, all assume that he cannot wield one at all. This is why he is admitted to the presence of the king when he asks for a private audience with Eglon. Because of his deformity, he presents no security risk to the Moabite.

- Michael Wilcock

Judges 3:20-22

And **he arose** from his seat. And Ehud **reached with his left hand, took the sword** from his right thigh, and **thrust it** into his belly. And **the hilt also went in** after the blade, and **the fat closed** over the blade, for he did not pull the sword out of his belly; and **the dung came out.**

Judges 3:23

Then Ehud went out into the porch
and closed the doors of the roof
chamber behind him and locked them.

Judges 3:24-25

When he had gone, the servants came, and when they saw that the doors of the roof chamber were locked, they thought, “Surely he is relieving himself in the closet of the cool chamber.” And they waited till they were embarrassed. But when he still did not open the doors of the roof chamber, they took the key and opened them, and there lay their lord dead on the floor.

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.

- Dale Ralph Davis

Judges 3:26-28

Ehud escaped while they delayed, and he passed beyond the idols and escaped to Seirah. When he arrived, he sounded the trumpet in the hill country of Ephraim. Then the people of Israel went down with him from the hill country, and he was their leader. And he said to them, “Follow after me, for the **LORD** has given your enemies the Moabites into your hand.”

Judges 3:28b

So they went down after him and seized the fords of the Jordan against the Moabites and did not allow anyone to pass over.

Judges 3:29-30

And they killed at that time about 10,000 of the Moabites, all strong, able-bodied men; not a man escaped. So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had **rest for eighty years.**

God is a God of grace, not works. He takes and uses people who are at the margins of society—in order to show that salvation is from him, not from our own human ability.

- Tim Keller