

## The Unlikely: The Betrayer Judges 3:12-30

### Judges 3:12-30

<sup>12</sup> Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and because they did this evil the LORD gave Eglon king of Moab power over Israel. <sup>13</sup> Getting the Ammonites and Amalekites to join him, Eglon came and attacked Israel, and they took possession of the City of Palms.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>14</sup> The Israelites were subject to Eglon king of Moab for eighteen years. <sup>15</sup> Again the Israelites cried out to the LORD, and he gave them a deliverer—Ehud, a left-handed man, the son of Gera the Benjamite. The Israelites sent him with tribute to Eglon king of Moab. <sup>16</sup> Now Ehud had made a double-edged sword about a cubit<sup>[b]</sup> long, which he strapped to his right thigh under his clothing. <sup>17</sup> He presented the tribute to Eglon king of Moab, who was a very fat man. <sup>18</sup> After Ehud had presented the tribute, he sent on their way those who had carried it. <sup>19</sup> But on reaching the stone images near Gilgal he himself went back to Eglon and said, “Your Majesty, I have a secret message for you.” The king said to his attendants, “Leave us!” And they all left. <sup>20</sup> Ehud then approached him while he was sitting alone in the upper room of his palace<sup>[c]</sup> and said, “I have a message from God for you.” As the king rose from his seat, <sup>21</sup> Ehud reached with his left hand, drew the sword from his right thigh and plunged it into the king’s belly. <sup>22</sup> Even the handle sank in after the blade, and his bowels discharged. Ehud did not pull the sword out, and the fat closed in over it. <sup>23</sup> Then Ehud went out to the porch<sup>[d]</sup>; he shut the doors of the upper room behind him and locked them. <sup>24</sup> After he had gone, the servants came and found the doors of the upper room locked. They said, “He must be relieving himself in the inner room of the palace.” <sup>25</sup> They waited to the point of embarrassment, but when he did not open the doors of the room, they took a key and unlocked them. There they saw their lord fallen to the floor, dead. <sup>26</sup> While they waited, Ehud got away. He passed by the stone images and escaped to Seirah. <sup>27</sup> When he arrived there, he blew a trumpet in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went down with him from the hills, with him leading them. <sup>28</sup> “Follow me,” he ordered, “for the LORD has given Moab, your enemy, into your hands.” So they followed him down and took possession of the fords of the Jordan that led to Moab; they allowed no one to cross over. <sup>29</sup> At that time they struck down about ten thousand Moabites, all vigorous and strong; not one escaped. <sup>30</sup> That day Moab was made subject to Israel, and the land had peace for eighty years.

- How long does it take for God to get your attention?
- Are you listening to God’s whispers
- Every movement of God starts with someone listening to God’s whispers.
- “Father, I am going to accept this as Thy Word—by faith! I’m going to allow faith to go beyond my intellectual questions and doubts, and I will believe this to be Your inspired Word!” – Billy Graham
- Though none go with me, I still will follow; No turning back, no turning back
- God operates in the real world.
- Sometimes the best we can do is follow Jesus, ask for grace, and trust that God is at work.

- **God uses unlikely people – people like you – to change history.**
- **Am I an unlikely person?**
- **Your unlikeliness does not stop God from having a purpose for your life.**
- **Your failures do not stop God’s love.**
- **Will I accept God’s mission for my life?**
- **What is God whispering to you today?**

**Starter Question:** Describe someone you know who has good idea of their purpose in life. How did they discover it?

1. Read Judges 3:12-30
2. What strikes you as funny in this story?
3. There is no right or wrong answer to this question: How much of Ehud’s plan to kill Eglon came from God and how much do you think he made up on his own?
4. Does the murder of Eglon bother you? Why or why not?
5. Ehud goes back to his land and blows a trumpet calling people to war. Do you think the people had doubt about Ehud? What might he have told them that helped them believe God was at work?
6. Without Eglon’s murder and the battle at the fords of the Jordan, could God have done this another way? How?