

## Judges, Sermon #12

Judges 3

Tonight we get to relive a fantastic story—an exciting, heart-stopping story about a man  
named Ehud

Can you say his name? EHUD

I've entitled tonight's message "The Lefty That Killed Hefty"

Judges 3:14

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

Judges 3:14-16

Let us pray

You may be seated

## “The Lefty That Killed Hefty”

For eighteen long years, painful suffering had been borne by the children of Israel.

Then it happened.

The Israelites reached the point where they could bear it no more [sometimes people are in sin a long time before they return to God]

They broke under the weight of God's hand

And they cried out to the LORD for help.

The chastisement of the LORD had done its work. It had achieved its purpose.

The people were now crying out to God for deliverance.

The lesson for us is striking: when we become gripped by some sin, we must repent and cry out to God for deliverance.

When we cry out to God and repent, God hears our cry. He hears and saves us.

*Isaiah 55:6-7, “Seek ye the LORD while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.”*

The LORD heard and delivered them from the oppression of the Moabite alliance.

He raised up a southpaw named Ehud!

He was Israel's second judge – deliverer/savior

Othniel had come from the tribe of Judah.

Ehud – came from Judah's neighbor, Benjamin

Vs. 13 – Jericho was a city located within the tribe of Benjamin.

Therefore, this tribe probably suffered the most and was highly motivated to shake off the yoke of King Eglon.

The Benjamites were known for their ambidexterity, which means they were able to use both hands with equal skill

I Chronicles 12:2. they were armed with bows and could use both the right hand and left in hurling stones and shooting arrows out of a bow.

Now, what is interesting to note is that the Hebrew text of Judges 3:15 says that he was left-handed, but it also notes that something was wrong with his right hand.

He was not ambidextrous; he was handicapped.

His right hand was impeded in some way or fashion.

If the Jews had been asked to vote on a leader, Ehud probably would have lost on the first ballot.

But Ehud was God's choice, and God used him to set the nation free. Vs. 15 – "The Lord raised them up a deliverer: Ehud."

Moses was slow of speech and Paul was not imposing in his appearance, but Moses and Paul, like Ehud, were men of faith who led others to victory.

Ehud is a great encouragement to all of us – to the handicapped—or to any person with a physical disability.

God used him and used him mightily despite his handicap.

The remarkable fact is that the only advantage Ehud had was that he was left-handed.

Folks, we don't have to have unusual ability to be used of God.

Sometimes the best ability is availability.

Do you remember William Carey?

Shoemaker – developed a plan for missions – overcame hostility and indifference to missions work

Dwight L. Moody?

He could hardly read and write at age 17, when his dad died at 41

The creditors seized everything they had including the fire wood

YMCA – Moody made a trip to England to hear Spurgeon preach and see George Muller’s orphanages.

He sat in a park by the famous evangelist, Henry Varley.

Varley said something to Moody that changed the course of his life.

Here are the words, “The world has yet to see what God will do with and for and through and in and by the man who is fully consecrated to Him.

Moody Bible Institute – Mr. Moody’s Chicago?

J. C. Penney – James Cash Penney?

The original name for his store was The Golden Rule

Sam Walton honed his skills by working in a J. C. Penney store

God can use us just the way He made us.

There is nothing wrong being left handed.

Fanny Crosby was blind but wrote 8000 songs that honored the Lord.

In Verse 15 – Ehud was appointed to lead the delegation sent to pay the annual taxes to Eglon, king of the Moabites

What now happened was a dramatic, suspenseful scene

Vs. 16

Daggers were normally concealed on the left thigh.

The dagger was a cubit in length.

It was a short cubit – twelve to fourteen inches.

Ehud presented the taxes to King Eglon, who was an obese or very fat man – vs. 17

His obesity suggests that he was not only a tyrant, but also a glutton and a man of pleasure (uncontrolled personal behavior)

Once Ehud and the delegation had presented the tribute, they were dismissed from the king's palace (v. 18).

When Ehud and his delegation reached the stone quarries (one mile away), he sent the men on ahead, but he doubles back by Jericho

He has a secret to tell the king – vs. 19

The king clears the room.

The fact that Ehud had no dagger on his left side would give the appearance of being unarmed.

Since he was maimed in his right arm, he was most likely not considered a threat to the king.

Ehud was a man of great faith, a man who trusted God to guide him step by step.

Trusting God is one of the chief traits of Ehud.

Ehud had to trust God step by step in the assassination of the king, for anything could have gone wrong at any point.

Danger lurked at every step of the plot.

Oftentimes, in our crime world today, people are sent in (undercover) in dangerous situations and they are wired.

Those people who monitor the listening devices say the heart thumbs so loudly – they can hear it.

The king was in the summer parlor which was a latticed upper room on the corner of the roof.

It was the coolest room in the house – very popular in the summer time.

Ehud says, "I have a message from God for you, king."

Vs 20a-21

The Bible says in verse 22 the dagger went in so far that Eglon's belly engulfed the whole knife—handle and all. Vs. 22 Haft, Hilt

The Bible says the dirt came out – see that! Vs 22e

The dirt was the innards and excrement of the king.

Vs. 23-25a

The servants of Eglon waited so long they were very embarrassed

The three “behold” statements in verses 24-25 indicate the three surprises that they experienced: the doors were locked, the king didn’t come out, and the king was dead.

This is not over – vs. 26-27

Ehud trusted God to arouse the people to mobilize, to follow him in battle

It was necessary to attack the Moabite enemy while they were confused and seeking to recover from their king's assassination.

**Now Trumpets were blown for several reasons.**

**First**, to announce a feast.

**Second**, to make a change in location. The trumpet blown at the Rapture indicates our location is changing. Amen!

A **third** reason for the trumpet blast was a demonstration for joy.

The **fourth** reason was to prepare for war as was the case here.

Verse 28-30

He rallied the troops by assuring them that the LORD would give them victory.

But the Israelites would have to trust the LORD for victory.

Ehud executed a brilliant strategy against the Moabites.

By guarding the fords, the Israelites prevented the Moabites from escaping or from bringing in fresh troops.

Ehud achieved a great victory.

The Israelite army killed 10,000 enemy soldiers who apparently represented an elite force within the Moabite army.

The result of the great deliverance by Ehud was 80 years of peace, vs. 30

Liberty was secured.

The bells of freedom could ring loud and clear throughout Israel.

The nation could declare its independence for victory had been achieved over the Moabite coalition.

And following Ehud's great victory and triumph, the Israelites were to enjoy the longest period of peace they were to know throughout the period of the judges, 80 years of peace.

Eighty years of peace is not to be taken for granted.

How many wars have we been in over 80 years?

"The Lefty That Killed Hefty"

Let us stand for closing invitation

Do we discredit ourselves, put ourselves down?

We can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth us

One person can make a difference.

God can use each and every one of us

The land rested.

There is liberty in Jesus Christ

He came to set us free

"Ye shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free" – famous words of Jesus that MLK used