

Without a King - Week 02

May 28, 2023

Speaker: Chris Slaon

Context

- Judges were **raised up by God** to defeat a particular enemy in a particular territory.
- They were **local leaders** who delivered the people from various oppressors.
 - **Not all** of the tribes participated in each battle.

Judges 3:7

7 The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD; **they forgot the LORD their God** and served the Baals and the Asherahs. 8 The anger of the LORD burned against Israel so that he sold them into the hands of Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram Naharaim, to whom the Israelites were subject for eight years. 9 But when they cried out to the Lord, **he raised up** for them a deliverer, Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, who saved them. 10 **The Spirit of the Lord came on him**, so that he became Israel's judge and went to war.

Judges 3:12

12 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.

13 Getting the Ammonites and Amalekites to join him, Eglon came and attacked Israel, and they took possession of the **City of Palms**.

14 The Israelites were subject to Eglon king of Moab for eighteen years. 15 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.

16 Now Ehud had made a double-edged sword about a cubit long, which he strapped to his right thigh under his clothing.

17 He presented the tribute to Eglon king of Moab, who was a very fat man. 18 After Ehud had presented the tribute, he sent on their way those who had carried it. 19 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. 20 Ehud then approached him while he was sitting alone in the upper room of his palace and said, "I have a message from God for you." As the king rose from his seat, 21 Ehud reached with his left hand, drew the sword from his right thigh and plunged it into the king's belly. 22 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. 23 Then Ehud went out to the porch; he shut the doors of the upper room behind him and locked them.

24 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."
25 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.²⁶ While they waited, Ehud got away.
31 After Ehud came Shamgar son of Anath, who struck down six hundred Philistines with an oxgoad. He too saved Israel.

We may acknowledge intellectually that something is **true**, but in our **hearts**, it does **control us**.

We know them, but we **don't "taste" or "see" or "feel"** them. Therefore, **other things** become more **real to our hearts**, and **we serve** them **instead**.

So they turned to idols...

I- items (more stuff)

D- duties (my career)

O- others (relationships)

L- longings (the good ole days)

S- suffering (my illness becomes my identity)

Power for Witnessing

- Peter, filled with the spirit, gave a simple message = 3,000 people responded. (Acts 2)

Power for Doing Mighty Acts

- The Spirit enables believers to perform miracles and extraordinary works (Acts 6)

Power to Withstand Persecution

- Faced persecution, Stood before hostile mobs and kings
- Triumphed over violence, riots, and imprisonment.

Guidance into all TRUTH

John 16:13

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, 14 He will glorify me,

The Spirit brings a **deeper, clearer, and more viable knowledge of Jesus Christ**.

- The Spirit took the things **true about Jesus and made them more personally real to us**.