



Content taken from The Book of Judges; 2018; J.D. Greear

Week 2

Opening Prayer

Opening Discussion:

1. What divine assignment had God given to Israel prior to their conquest of the Promised Land (of Canaan)? And were they faithful to the task? Why or why not?

2. What did we learn about the following last week?
 - a. Compromise and what it leads to

 - b. Amnesia and its results

 - c. Telling God's Story (Judges 2:10-11)

 - d. God's Faithfulness

Today's Themes and Scripture Passages

- What's your favorite underdog movie? Why?

- Read Judges 3:1-6.

Video 2

Discussion Questions

3. What cycle do we see appearing in **Judges 3:7-11**?
 - a. Israel R_____
 - b. God P_____ Israel
 - c. Israel C_____
 - d. God has M_____ and appoints a J_____
 - e. The Judge D_____ Israel
 - f. Israel has P_____
 - g. Israel R_____
4. What does this cycle and Othniel's story teach us about God's character?
5. What does God give Othniel in *verse 10* to help him conquer the Mesopotamians?
6. **Read Judges 3:12-14.** What changes between verse 11 and 12?
 - a. What does rebellion tell us about the nature of the human heart? (*see Psalm 51:5 and Ecclesiastes 7:20*)
 - b. Personal Application Question: What effect have you seen selfishness have on your relationship with God? How does it impact the way you relate to Him? Others?
7. **Read Judges 3:15.** What is so interesting about God's choice of Ehud?
8. **Read Judges 3:16-25.** Why do you think Ehud's attack came as a surprise to Eglon?
9. **Read Judges 3:26-31.** According to Ehud's words in verse 28, who is the one who delivers Israel from Moab?
10. What does God's choice of judges say about His character and the way He goes about saving His people? And how does this contradict the world's standards of strength and ability? (*see 1 Corinthians 1:25-31*)

Personal Application Question:

- a. In what ways have you fallen into the trap of seeing God's ways through the eyes of the world?
- b. What would it look like to see your circumstances from God's perspective?

11. What did we learn about availability vs. ability today?

12. Pastor J.D. touched upon parenting techniques. What was his point? Was it *really* about parenting, or something else?

13. Personal Application Point: What are some of the practical ways we can fight against the tendency toward selfishness (a heart that is focused inward)? What difference could adopting God's perspective make in the fight against selfishness?

14. Personal Application Point: What is one thing you could do throughout the next week to remind yourself to see your circumstances from God's perspective?
 - a. *Option 1- Pray*: Spend five minutes each morning asking God to give you His mindset throughout the day to see the world from His perspective.

 - b. *Option 2- Journal*: Pick one situation from your past that confused you at the time- maybe you didn't understand what was happening or what God was seeking to teach you through it. Reflect on how He's grown you through that circumstance and thank Him for working in your life.

 - c. *Option 3- Serve*: As a way to counter the pull of selfishness, serve someone this week. Find one way you can meet a need or show them love, and then do it.

Closing Prayer

Dear God, we have not always made ourselves available to You. We have also attempted life through our own wisdom, strength, and ability. Today, we ask for Your forgiveness along with a new way forward, *Your* way for us. Through Your Holy Spirit, make us to be a people who are available for Your purposes, and active in following through! In Jesus' Name, Amen.