



Ehud: The Right Left-Handed Man

Judges 3:15-30

Overcoming obstacles in our lives with God's help leads to the unexpected

- God employs **UNLIKELY** people to help us overcome
*"But when the sons of Israel cried to the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer for them, Ehud the son of Gera, the Benjamite, *a left-handed man." (Judges 3:15) (*literally: Ehud was "unable to use his right hand")*

"Right-hand" references: God swears by His right hand (Isaiah 62:8-9); God's pleasures are at His right hand (Psalm 16:11); God's chosen One sits at His right hand (Psalm 110:1)
- God utilizes **UNUSUAL** situations to help us overcome
"It came about when he had finished presenting the tribute, that he sent away the people who had carried the tribute. But he himself turned back from the idols which were at Gilgal, and said, "I have a secret message for you, O king." And he said, "Keep silence." And all who attended him left him." (Judges 3:18-19)

Obstacles to overcome: Gain access to King Eglon without making anyone suspicious (v.17-18)
Securing private audience with King without tipping off guards (v.19-22)
Escape from the palace without getting caught (v.23-26)
Rally the troops and attack the enemy (v.27-30)
- God creates **UNPREDICTABLE** results to help us overcome
"He said to them, 'Pursue them, for the Lord has given your enemies the Moabites into your hands.' So they went down after him and seized the fords of the Jordan opposite Moab, and did not allow anyone to cross. They struck down at that time about ten thousand Moabites, all robust and valiant men; and no one escaped." (Judges 3:28-29)

Overcoming the obstacle of sin in our lives with God's help leads to Jesus

- Jesus was the **UNLIKELY** person to help us overcome sin
"He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him." (Isaiah 53:2-3)
- Jesus' death on the cross was the **UNUSUAL** situation to help us overcome sin
"When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross." (Colossians 2:13-14)
- Jesus' resurrection was the **UNPREDICTABLE** result to give us life to overcome sin
"When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him." (Colossians 2:15)

Think of what you were

- Ehud points us to Jesus, but also points to ourselves
"For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong...so that no man may boast before God." (1 Corinthians 1:26-29)

Digging Deeper:

(Adapted from Warren Wiersbe, "Be Available")

"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world." This is not a quote from a space alien. The apostle Paul wrote these words to the believers in Corinth. "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses." (2 Corinthians 10:4) Paul wrote this to remind them of a principle every Christian needs to take to heart. When God goes to war, He usually chooses the most unlikely soldiers, hands them the most unusual weapons and accomplishes through them the most unpredictable results.

Besides the life of Ehud, here are five more narratives of God doing what He does in the lives of the unlikely. Four of the five are from passages we will be going through in the weeks to come in our "Overcoming" series. Sit with one each day and think about the work of God in the lives of His people, but more importantly, how is God at work in your life to help you overcome obstacles in your life.

- God gave Shamgar an ox goad, and with it he killed 600 men (Judges 3:31)
- Jael used a hammer and tent peg to kill a captain (Judges 4:21)
- Gideon routed the Midianite army with only pitchers and torches as weapons (Judges 7:20)
- Samson slaughtered 1,000 Philistines using the jawbone of a donkey (Judges 15:15)
- David killed the giant Goliath with a stone hurled from a shepherd's sling (1 Samuel 17)

What are some of the other Biblical accounts of God working out unusual situations through unlikely people?

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. When, in your own experience, have you seen God using unexpected people and/or unpredictable means to do great things?
2. "Think of what you were..." How are you "left-handed"? How does this humble you?
3. Do you ever try to do deals with God? How do you need simply to surrender to Him, and enjoy the rescue He freely gives to you?

Next Steps:

1. **Join the Alpha Course on Wednesdays, February 4 - March 25 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the Lobby.** Alpha is an 8-week course where you can explore some of life's big questions over a relaxed time of dinner, honest conversation, learning and group discussion. Use the invite card in today's bulletin to invite a friend. calvarylife.org/alpha
2. **Seek counseling or prayer support if sin is preventing you from healthy growth in your spiritual life.** Discover more about receiving counseling, group support, or prayer through Calvary Care Ministries by contacting 714.550.2334 or care@calvarylife.org or visit calvarylife.org/care
3. **Use Calvary's new discipleship course called 'Following Jesus' to grow spiritually.** *Following Jesus*, with editions for both students and leaders, is available in the Corner Bookstore. To learn more about how to be discipled by another Christian, or become a discipleship mentor, contact Laura at LCopeland@calvarylife.org or visit calvarylife.org/grow