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Hidden Heroes of the Bible
Ehud: Left-Handed Hero

4 Corners Church
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God often brings salvation through unexpected weakness so that his people will trust his grace, not their strength.

Judges 3:1-4 ¹ Now these are the nations that the LORD left, to test Israel by them, that is, all in Israel who had not experienced all the wars in Canaan. ² It was only in order that the generations of the people of Israel might know war, to teach war to those who had not known it before... ⁴ They were for the testing of Israel, to know whether Israel would obey the commandments of the LORD, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.

Judges 3:12-14 ¹² And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done what was evil in the sight of the LORD. ¹³ He gathered to himself the Ammonites and the Amalekites, and went and defeated Israel. And they took possession of the city of palms. ¹⁴ And the people of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years.

1. Sometimes, God leaves battles in our lives on purpose.

- Some of us want a Christian life with no battle.
- God wants a Christian life with trust in the battle.

Judges 3:15-23 ¹⁵ Then the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, and the LORD raised up for them a deliverer, Ehud, the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, a left-handed man. The people of Israel sent tribute by him to Eglon the king of Moab. ¹⁶ And Ehud made for himself a sword with two edges, a cubit in length, and he bound it on his right thigh under his clothes. ¹⁷ And he presented the tribute to Eglon king of Moab. Now Eglon was a very fat man. ¹⁸ And when Ehud had finished presenting the tribute, he sent away the people who carried the tribute. ¹⁹ But he himself turned back at the idols near Gilgal and said, "I have a secret message for you, O king." And he commanded, "Silence." And all his attendants went out from his presence. ²⁰ And Ehud came to him as he was sitting alone in his cool roof chamber. And Ehud said, "I have a message from God for you." And he arose from his seat. ²¹ And Ehud reached with his left hand, took the sword from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly. ²² And the hilt also went in after the blade, and the fat closed over the blade, for he did not pull the sword out of his belly; and the dung came

out. ²³ Then Ehud went out into the porch and closed the doors of the roof chamber behind him and locked them.

Judges 3:24-25 ²⁴ When he had gone, the servants came, and when they saw that the doors of the roof chamber were locked, they thought, "Surely he is relieving himself in the closet of the cool chamber." ²⁵ And they waited till they were embarrassed. But when he still did not open the doors of the roof chamber, they took the key and opened them, and there lay their lord dead on the floor.

Judges 3:26-30 ²⁶ Ehud escaped while they delayed, and he passed beyond the idols and escaped to Seirah. ²⁷ When he arrived, he sounded the trumpet in the hill country of Ephraim. Then the people of Israel went down with him from the hill country, and he was their leader. ²⁸ And he said to them, "Follow after me, for the LORD has given your enemies the Moabites into your hand." So they went down after him and seized the fords of the Jordan against the Moabites and did not allow anyone to pass over. ²⁹ And they killed at that time about 10,000 of the Moabites, all strong, able-bodied men; not a man escaped. ³⁰ So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest for eighty years.

2. God raises unlikely saviors because he loves to shame human pride.

- God loves to overthrow human arrogance through unlikely instruments.
- God chooses the kind of savior that makes everybody say, "That had to be God."

3. The Bible often moves from visible strength to surprising weakness, and it all points to Jesus.

- God sent a poor Jewish rabbi from a nowhere town, with no home, no army, no political office, and eventually a cross on his back - that is your Savior.
- Christianity is this: God saves through weakness - that is why the gospel offends proud people.

4. Every human being is trying to save themselves, but salvation only comes as a gift.

- Religious people try to save themselves through morality. "If I am good enough, pure enough, faithful enough, disciplined enough, then God will accept me."
- Irreligious people do the same thing with different tools. "If I am successful enough, attractive enough, loved enough, wealthy enough, important enough, then I will know that my life matters."
- What keeps many people from salvation? Not their weakness, their strength.

5. God laughs at arrogant evil, so his people do not have to live in fear.

- That the gospel remains should do two things in us:
- First, it should give us courage. Second, it should soften us into compassion.

6. One day God will make our bitterest stories laughable.

- The oppression in Judges was real; yet, later, the people tell the story with laughter.

- God can redeem suffering so fully that one day his people will tell the story without tears.
- For those who belong to Christ, sorrow does not get the last word.

7. In God's kingdom, availability matters more than ability.

- That does not mean gifts do not matter. It means gifts are not ultimate.
- Ordinary Christians obeying God in ordinary moments with extraordinary dependence – that's how things move forward.
- God takes weak acts of obedience and fills them with his power.