



Weird People + Weird Weapons = Wonderful Results

Sports Recruiters look for specific characteristics in the athletes they recruit. We have a preconceived idea of athletes from each sport. The recruiters look of specific people with a specific skill set.

Military Schools teach classes in the art of battle and the art of battlefield maneuvers. These schools have a specific way that they teach the Art of War. God doesn't always work the way that we would humanly expect him to. He uses weird people and weird weapons, but shows his strength through wonderful results. God uses people in unexpected ways.

Theme: God shows His strength through unlikely heroes.

I. God showed His strength through an Available Servant. (1:12-13; 3:9-11)

B. Othniel made himself available to serve when few others would. (1:12-13)

There isn't complete agreement about the exact relationship between Caleb and Othniel amongst Bible scholars.

Some read Judges 1:13 this way...

1. *Othniel the son of Kenaz (who was), Caleb's younger brother.*

They would argue, "If Othniel was Caleb's brother, why was his father's name Kenaz instead of Jephunneh (Caleb's Father)?"

Others understand it this way...

2. Caleb's father Jephunnah died and Caleb's mother remarried Kenaz and then had Othniel. This would make them half brothers.

Either way, Othniel was related to Caleb, and we can learn from this man Othniel's example.

B. Othniel made himself available to receive strength from the Spirit of the Lord. (3:9-11)

The Bible does not give any indication that Othniel was extra-ordinary. He just did what God told him to do. He was Available.

II. God showed His strength through a Dependent Servant. (3:15-30)

Why was Ehud so dependent?

A. Ehud depended on God through his disability. (3:15)

The name *Benjamin* means, "Son of my right hand." - Irony

The text could be translated as "a man handicapped in the right hand."

- Ehud may have had an actual deformity in his right hand that rendered it useless or at the very least, he was considered to be at a severe disadvantage because he was left handed.

B. Ehud depended on God for his defense. (3:18-26)

Psalm 18:2-3, "2 The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. 3 I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

C. Ehud depended on God for deliverance. (3:28)

Ehud assured Israel that victory would come by trusting the Lord and not by depending on their own strength.

III. God showed His strength through a Strangely - Equipped Servant. (3:31)

A. God made limited resources an abundant resource.

B. God made a Farmer a deliverer.

Conclusion: God shows His strength through unlikely heroes. These men were not adequate saviors. These men could do nothing to change the hearts of the people. Even during this time, there was a promise of One who is able to deliver people from the bondage of sin.

Man's real bondage does not come from the Moabites or a super fat king. No MAN can set us free from the source of our real bondage to sin. There is One who has scars in His hands, His feet, and His side that plead for you and me. His blood was the cost of our freedom from sin. This Savior wants to do great things for us and through us. We must be

1. Available Servants
2. Dependent Servants
3. Equipped Servants - No matter how strangely equipped we may think that we are.

Final Thought: _____