

Judges 3:12-30

Outline for Congregation

God strengthens an enemy

- Eglon, the Moabite, defeats Israel and takes possession of Jericho (vv12-14)
- Israel now has to bring a tribute to this king (v15), who does not appear to need more (v17), but in naïve greed (v19) opens himself to his own shameful ruin (vv20-25)
- Matthew 26:52 “all who take the sword will perish by the sword”

God raises up a deliverer

- God takes pity on His suffering people (v15) after 18 years of subjection (v14) and raises up Ehud, a deliverer
- Recorded for us is an exciting story (with comical undertones) of a key figure in the history of God’s people (vv16-30) – we have story to enjoy (but not necessarily a hero to emulate)

God brings rest to His people

- Times of crisis sometimes involve messy solutions
- The ultimate savior God raises up (Matthew 1:21) brings rest (Matthew 11:28) in a very different way (Matthew 26:51-56)

Questions for reflection:

1. God strengthened Eglon, and Eglon used what God gave him selfishly and foolishly. Consider what God has given you – talent, wealth, power, influence, knowledge, etc. – do you use these things justly and for good purposes, or in pursuit of gain for yourself?
2. Eglon made his gains through military actions and he died by them. How do you operate and what would it look like if what you do in life comes back to you? Will it be for blessing or for shame?
3. God’s people did what was evil and suffered for it, yet God raised up a deliverer to save them. Where do you suffer consequences for your own wrong doing? God sent Jesus to “save us from our sins” (Matthew 1:21) – what does it look like to accept his gracious salvation?
4. When God’s people refused to serve Him they suffered (all throughout the book of Judges). All authority in heaven and earth belong to Jesus (Matthew 28:18) - what does it look like to live your life in humble submission to Jesus’ leadership, and what do you expect from your service?