

UNLIKELY LEADERS WITH AMAZING POWER

"Remaining godly in a godless World"

Judges 3:7-31

INTRODUCTION:

1. **Judges 2:11-13**

a) Because of immorality, intermarriage, and idolatry, Israel experienced God's anger-filled judgment.

2. While God NEVER takes sin lightly, when we confess our sin, He forgives us.

a) **1 John 1:9**

3. **BIG QUESTION:** So how exactly does God get His children to the place of confession?

4. **Hebrews 12:5-11**

FIVE CHARACTERISTICS TO HELP BELIEVERS NAVIGATE THROUGH A GODLESS WORLD

I. STRONG CONVICTIONS

1. **What is a Conviction?**

a) It is the state of being CONVINCED.

1) To be moved by evidence to belief.

2. **Judges 3:9**

3. **CYCLE OF SIN:** Sin (disobedience) Servitude, Supplication, Salvation, Silence

4. **Joshua 14:1-10**

a) Othniel was Caleb's nephew.

b) And Caleb arguably did his greatest work when he was 85!!!

c) **Joshua 14:11-14**

5. What a legacy!!!

a) **Numbers 14:24**

II. BE COURAGEOUS

1. **Judges 3:7**

a) "forgot" - doesn't mean they couldn't remember.

1) It means they were no longer controlled by what they already knew.

2) It means that though they KNEW what God wanted...those things were not real to them.

3) It means what was real in their heads, was not real in their hearts!!

- b) "Baals" - "mini gods"
- c) "Asherahs" - was a female fertility goddess

2. Vs 8

- a) "Rush-ath-aim" - which means double wickedness.
- b) "eight years" - that's how long it took for them to let go of their sin!!!
 - 1) Think about it.

3. Vs 9a

- a) "*cried out to the Lord*"
 - 1) That's repentance

4. Vs 9b

5. "We Cannot be Silent" - by Al Mohler

- 6. Those of us who stand on the truth of God's word are going to be singled out.
 - a) And it will take God-given courage to rise up as men and women of God.

III. HAVE CONFIDENCE

1. Vs 10

- a) "*The Spirit of the Lord was upon him*"

2. Vs 11

3. **Very Important:** In the O.T. the Holy Spirit would come upon people and empower them for the task or job at hand and then leave them.

- a) It was **temporary**.

4. In the New Testament **John 14:15-17, 16:7-15**

- a) The permanent indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

5. We have the Indwelling Presence of the Holy Spirit who empowers us to do what God calls us to do.

- a) UNLESS WE **FORGET**

- 1) Unless we are no longer controlled by what we already knew.
- 2) Unless we KNOW what God wants but those things are not real to us.
- 3) Unless it is real in their heads, but not real in their hearts!!
 - a) That's a problem.

6. To live for Jesus in this world, we will need Conviction, Courage, and Confidence for sure.

- a) **John 15:5**
- b) **Philippians 4:13**

7. Vs 11

a) Rest for 40 years.

8. Vs 12

a) WOW!!!

IV. DARE TO BE CONFRONTATIONAL

1. Vs 13-14

2. Sometimes people who avoid confrontation hide behind LOVE.

3. But there are times that we MUST EXERCISE TOUGH LOVE.

4. Vs 15

a) "*a left-handed man*"

5. Why does God want us to know Ehud was "left-handed"?

6. Vs 16

7. Vs 17

a) "*tribute*" - a gift

8. Vs 18-23, Vs 24-25, Vs 26-30

V. DO WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH WHAT YOU HAVE

1. Vs 31

a) "*the son of Anath*"

1) Anath is the name of the Canaanite god of sex and war.

2) And Shamgar probably wasn't even Jewish.

2. Shamgar was different from the first 2 judges.

a) Othniel had a great ROLL MODEL in Caleb.

b) Wasn't from a wealthy family...because he must have been a farmer when we examine his weapon of choice.

c) An Ox goad was a tool for encouraging Ox to keep moving.

3. Vs 31

a) "*who killed 600 of the Philistines*"

4. **Principle:** Do what you can with what you have!!