

THE FANTASTIC SIXTEEN

UNLIKELY HEROES

THE TRUE STORIES OF BIBLICAL LEADERS YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF

**THE JUDGE AVENGER
THE STORY OF EHUD'S
COURAGE**

**Judges
3:12-22**

THE HOLOCAUST OF WORLD WAR 2

- almost wiped the Jewish people from the face of the earth. Over 6 million were killed. While it was a very dark time, many refused to allow evil to win and became heroes. One was named Raoul Wallenberg. Raoul was born into a wealthy family in Sweden, a neutral country, and was a businessman at the time of the war. He devised a plan to give Swedish passports to Hungarian Jews so they could escape the Nazis. He had many close calls, but his courage saved over 100,000 Jews. At the end of the war, Raoul was captured and was never heard from again.

COURAGEOUS PEOPLE

- Why is there a need for courageous people?
- When faced with a difficult situation, do you think you will be courageous? Why?

EGLON

1. Worldly
courage boasts
in temporary
things (Judges
3:12-14).



THE BAD GUY:

An Example of Worldly Courage
Who was Eglon?

- King of Moab, a nearby nation
- Invaded and ruled over Israel for eighteen years
- Wanted more power and more land

NEW TESTAMENT DISCIPLESHIP LIVING

- “Don’t collect for yourselves treasures^[n] on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But collect for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don’t break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21
- So if you have been raised with the Messiah, seek what is above, where the Messiah is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on what is above, not on what is on the earth. Colossians 3:1-2
- ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is their stomach; their glory is in their shame. They are focused on earthly things, ²⁰ but our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 3:19-20

DOWNFALL OF EGLON

A. Eglon boasted about his power (v.12).

According to the verse, who gave Eglon the power he had?

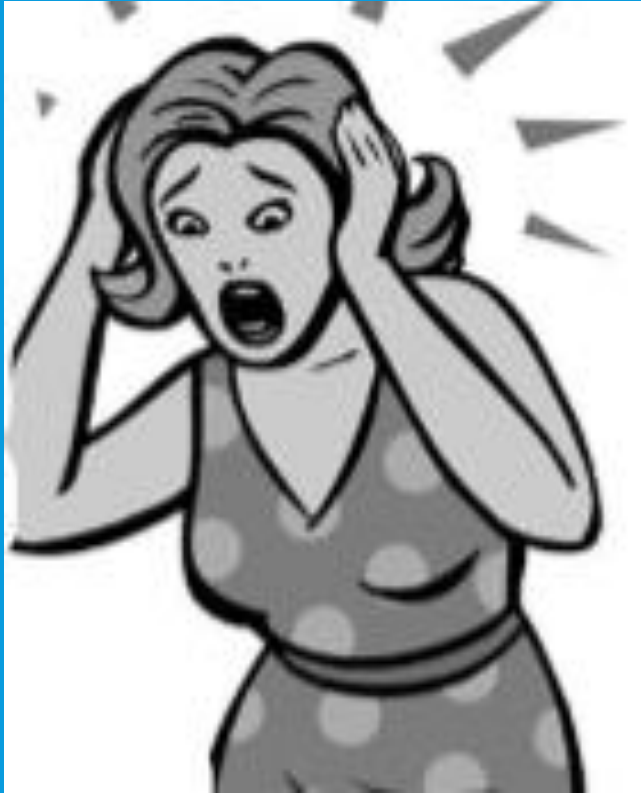
Leaders that forget who gave them their power are bound to fail.

He formed a military alliance to get what he wanted. He had courage because of his great army, but God is more powerful than any army.

B. Eglon boasted about his armies (v.13).

C. Eglon boasted about his possessions (v.14).

What are some possessions that people today boast about?



Look at Psalm 20:7.

Who are we to boast in?

Which did Eglon boast in?

WORLDLY COURAGE IS SELF-SERVING (VV.15-19).

Eglon was a selfish man, which was the weakness that Ehud used. His power and possessions made him think that he had no reason to fear people or God. A proper view of God gives us a proper perspective of fear. Only then can we understand how a leader can have real courage!

THE UNLIKELY HERO:

An Example of Godly Courage

These two men were very different. Eglon did not fear men because he mistakenly believed he was powerful. Ehud did not fear men because he feared God, who was truly powerful. Ehud's obedience to God gave him the courage to save the people of Israel.



1. Godly courage puts fear in its proper perspective
(Judges 3:20-25).

"Courage is that quality of mind
which enables
people to encounter
danger or difficulty firmly."
– J. Oswald Sanders

How would you define the "fear of God"?

Do you think Ehud wanted to go face-to-face with this evil man? Probably not! But he did because the fear of God allowed him to have courage.

2. Godly courage is based on trusting God (Judges 3:26-30).



The people of Israel caught Ehud's courage and trusted God to lead them. They made things right again and ruled over the nation that had been ruling over them.

Joshua 1:9 reminded the Israelites that courage is based on trusting God's promises: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Do you think they were scared when they attacked the nation that had enslaved them? Why did they do it anyway?

Read what Paul, the greatest missionary ever, wrote:

“And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

What does he say about fear? How can God use it?

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- 1. Why does peer pressure make it so difficult to display godly courage at times?
- 2. Are there areas in your life that you are giving into peer pressure? If so, what are they? (You do not have to write out the entire words if you feel uncomfortable).
- 3. Would you be willing to change in those areas to respect and fear God rather than man? If so, pray about that now.