

Ehud and Jephthah: A Contrast in Relationships and Tactics

Readings: Judges 3:12-30 and 10:6-12:7

- 1) Think through the teams you have been on, whether on the ship or on a missions team or your church, that was united both with the leader and one another. Describe some of the team and how they encouraged unity.
 - a) What city did Eglon possess that belonged to Israel? Where was it located in relationship to the country of Moab from where Eglon and his army had come (Judges 3:12-14)?
 - b) In whom or what did the moral strength of the Moabite army reside? Describe who or what this is (Judges 3:15 and following verses).
 - c) How did Ehud describe the weapon that he used to destroy Eglon (3:19-20)? Do you see any parallel between this weapon and the weapon we have in Hebrews 4:12-13? What is the weapon in Hebrews 4:12 used against?
 - d) Why did Ehud use the weapon he used instead of a sword or a spear?
 - e) Once Eglon was destroyed what did his army do? Where did they go? Who met them there and from which tribe did Ehud raise an army? Were they united behind Ehud? Were they victorious (Judges 3:24-30)?
 - f) In what way or ways do the Israelites set a good example for us in the Ehud story?
- 2) Now think through the teams you have been on, whether on the ship or on a missions team or your church, that was not united. Describe some of the team and how they destroyed the unity.
 - a) What kind of a person was Jephthah (Judges 11:1-12)?
 - b) What kind of “lesson” did Jephthah teach the king of Ammon through the message he sent him (Judges 11:13-28)? In the earlier story Ehud used a weapon against Eglon, the king of Moab, which is a lot like our spiritual weapon mentioned in Hebrews 4:12. How is this “lesson” very much like that weapon but in another way?
 - c) Jephthah conquered Ammon (Judges 11:29-33)? However we have two sad stories at the end of his story (Judges 11:30-31, and 34-40)? Why do you think Jephthah made such a rash vow?
 - d) The other sad story is in 12:1-7 and shows us that Israel did not have the attitude they showed at the time of Ehud. How did they demonstrate their disunity?
- 3) What 3 areas did Paul emphasize in Ephesians 4 when he exhorted the church to be united.
 - a) Ephesians 4:1-6
 - b) “ 4:7-13
 - c) “ 4:14-16
- 4) There are 4 people mentioned in Philippians 2, Jesus vv. 1-11, Paul vv. 12-18, Timothy vv. 19-24 and Epaphroditus vv. 25-30. What did they do to contribute to unity?