

Pastor's Pen

Gods Assassin!

"Then the sons of Israel cried to Yahweh, and Yahweh raised up a savior for them, Ehud the son of Gera, the Benjamite, a left-handed man." Judges 3:15

Judges 3 could have inspired many a spy novel. The story of Ehud is the story of God's assassin. Ehud served as the second judge of Israel following Othniel. After Othniel's death, the people of Israel sinned and fell to the King of Moab, serving him for 18 years (Judges 3:13-14). When the Israelites cried out for help, God sent Ehud to serve as judge over His people.

In Judges 3:16, we are given some details pertinent to Ehud's mission. Ehud was from the tribe of Benjamin, the son of Gera, and the Bible tells us he was left handed. This is a very important detail to his mission as God's assassin. Ehud made himself a double-edged sword, about 16 inches long. He strapped it to his right thigh under his clothes, then visited the Moabites' King Eglon under the pretense of paying a tribute. When Ehud was checked for weapons, his small sword was missed as it was in an unexpected location. Then, after giving the King his tribute, Ehud made up an excuse to see the King alone. He said, "I have a secret message for you, O king." The King sent everyone out, and Ehud approached the King and said, "I have a message from God for you." The King rose from his seat to hear, and Ehud took out his sword and thrust it into the fat belly of the King. Judges 3:21-23 describes the event, "*Then Ehud sent forth his left hand, took the sword from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly. The handle also went in after the blade, and the fat closed over the blade, for he did not draw the sword out of his belly; and the refuse came out. Then Ehud went out into the vestibule and shut the doors of the roof chamber behind him and locked them.*"

Because of the assassination, God brought peace to His people and destruction to the Moabites. Judges 3:28-30 tells us the end of the story, Ehud went to his people, "*Then he said to them, 'Pursue them, for Yahweh has given your enemies the Moabites into your hands.'*" *So they went down after him and captured the fords of the Jordan opposite Moab and did not allow anyone to cross. And they struck down at that time about 10,000 Moabites, all robust and valiant men; and no one escaped. So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land was quiet for eighty years.*

One might say that Ehud being a lefty is incidental. However, God created Him as a lefty to be used for the very purpose of being God's assassin. Christian, He has made you just the way you are to be used by Him. You are unique and gifted by God in order to bring Him glory. In this story of God's assassin, we are reminded once again of His sovereignty and mercy for those who love and fear Him.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"The sovereignty of God is that golden sceptre in his hand by which he will make all bow, either by his word or by his works, by his mercies or by his judgements."

- Thomas Brooks

Grace Gems

Being Poor in Spirit

-John MacArthur

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:3).

If you are poor in spirit, certain characteristics will mark your life. The Puritan writer Thomas Watson listed seven ways to determine if you are poor in spirit (The Beatitudes [Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1971], pp. 45-48):

You will be weaned from self—Psalm 131:2 says, "Like a weaned child rests against his mother, my soul is like a weaned child within me." When you are poor in spirit you will focus not on yourself but on glorifying God and ministering to others.

You will focus on Christ—Second Corinthians 3:18 says that believers are "beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, [and] are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit." When you are poor in spirit, the wonder of Christ captivates you. To be like Him is your highest goal.

You will never complain—If you are poor in spirit you accept God's sovereign control over your circumstances, knowing you deserve nothing anyway. Yet the greater your needs, the more abundantly He provides.

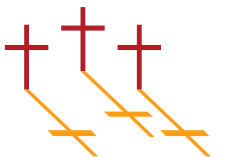
You will see good in others—A person who is poor in spirit recognizes his own weaknesses and appreciates the strengths of others.

You will spend time in prayer—It is characteristic of beggars to beg. Therefore you will constantly be in God's presence seeking His strength and blessing.

You will take Christ on His terms—Those who are poor in spirit will give up anything to please Christ, whereas the proud sinner wants simply to add Christ to his sinful lifestyle.

You will praise and thank God—When you are poor in spirit, you will be filled with praise and thanks for the wonder of God's grace, which He lavishes on you through Christ (Eph. 1:6).

Do those principles characterize your life? If so, you are poor in spirit and the kingdom of heaven is yours (Matt. 5:3). If not, you must seek God's forgiveness and begin to live as His humble child.



Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM



Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM
Men's Bible Study
1st and 3rd Saturday
Women of Grace | 9AM



Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
every other week @ Chambers, Cox's,
Patrick's, Brown's and Royall's



Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team
and forgot to sign up, please contact the
team leader at the appropriate email
address.



Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study and AWANA!



Service Times

Sunday Services 8AM & 11:00AM
Sunday School 9:30AM
Children's Church @11:00AM



Giving from service on 04/16/2023

General Offering	7,618.11
Building Fund	1,957.00
Benevolence	20.00
Uganda Mission Trip.....	2,145.00
Total.....	\$11,740.11
Attendance	234
Online.....	22
G3 offering raised so far....	\$1,155.00

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance @ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
Security-security@ghbcva.org



ghbcva.org | 804.561.3742
9821 South Redfield Drive, Amelia, VA 23002

Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Apr 23, 2023

Welcome