

So Long, Fatso

Judges 3:12-30

INTRODUCTION

- A. During his lifetime, Robert Earl Hughes was the heaviest human being ever recorded in the history of man.
 - 1. At his heaviest, his chest measured 10.3 feet & he weighed 1,070 pounds.
 - 2. At age 6, he weighed 200 pounds; at ten, he weighed 380 pounds.
- B. God used a fat person to teach about his character.
 - 1. By using Eglon, God allows us to glimpse at his power and character.
 - 2. Tonight, we want to examine God using Eglon.

GOD PUNISHES HIS PEOPLE, vv. 12-14

- A. The Israelites did evil in God's sight, v. 12.
 - 1. The "again" probably means they returned to the idolatry mentioned in v. 7.
 - a. The Israelites followed these Canaanite gods instead of the true God.
 - b. They had forgotten that just 40 years before God delivered them from the King of Mesopotamia (vv. 8-11).
 - 2. We, too, can do evil in God's sight.
 - a. The basic problem with these Israelites was that they took God out of their lives.
 - b. Are you taking God out of your life?
- B. Because of the Israelites' sinfulness, God strengthened Eglon, king of Moab, v. 12.
 - 1. Not only did God turn his back on his people, he strengthened his people's enemy.
 - 2. Eglon took possession of the city of palms, Jericho, v. 13.
- C. The people of Israel served Eglon for 18 years, v. 14.
- D. God continues to punish his people who drift away.
 - 1. If we refuse to listen to Jesus, we shall not escape God's wrath (Heb. 12:25).
 - 2. Those who continue in sin after becoming Christians will receive a severe penalty (Heb. 10:25).
 - 3. God does not take lightly his people disobeying his word.

GOD DELIVERS HIS PEOPLE FROM SIN'S PUNISHMENT, vv. 15-23

- A. God delivered the Israelites out of Eglon's hands.
- B. The people cried out to the Lord.
 - 1. These individuals prayed to God and begged him to deliver them.
 - 2. Because they prayed, God heard their prayers.
 - 3. If we pray, God will hear our prayers, as well.
 - a. The Philistines drew near the children of Israel at Mizpah (1 Sam. 7:7).
 - 1) Samuel prayed to the LORD that he might deliver Israel from the Philistines (1 Sam. 7:8-9).
 - 2) The LORD confused the Philistines so that they were overcome before Israel (1 Sam. 7:10).
 - b. If we keep God's commandments, whatever we ask from him we receive (1 Jn. 3:22).
- C. The LORD raised up Ehud to deliver his people.
 - 1. Ehud made a dagger and carried it under his clothes, v. 16.
 - 2. Ehud carried the tribute to Eglon, vv. 17-18.
 - a. This tribute probably refers to taxes Eglon had placed upon the Israelites.
 - b. These tributes were presented with great ceremony; many went up with Ehud to present these taxes.
 - 3. Ehud told the Eglon he had a special message for him, vv. 19-20.
 - a. Ehud sent word to the king that he had an important message, and the king sent for Ehud.
 - b. Ehud told the king that he had a message from the gods, and Eglon rose to receive that message with dignity.
 - 4. When Eglon rose, Ehud took out his dagger and killed the king, vv. 21-23.
 - a. Ehud drove the dagger into Eglon's belly.

- b. Eglon was so fat that the blade disappeared in his stomach.
- c. Ehud escaped unnoticed by Eglon's servants.
- D. If we turn to God, he will take away the guilt of our sin just like he did for these people.
 - 1. God has blotted out our sins and has redeemed us (Is. 44:22).
 - 2. If God's people will pray to God and turn from their wicked ways, God will forgive their sins (2 Chr. 7:14).
 - 3. God is merciful to our unrighteousness and will remember our sins no more (Heb. 8:12).
- E. If we turn to God, we will never see hell.
 - 1. When the Israelites turned to God, he delivered them from the guilt of their sins.
 - 2. If we turn to God, he will deliver us from the guilt of our sins.

GOD AVENGES HIS ENEMIES, vv. 26-30

- A. God avenged the people of Moab.
- B. Ehud led the people in victory over Moab.
 - 1. After he escaped from killing Eglon, Ehud sounded the trumpet and led the people of Israel, v. 2.
 - a. Ehud encouraged the Israelites by saying that God had delivered the Moabites into their hand.
 - b. The Israelites prevented any Moabite from crossing over the Jordan.
 - 1) Apparently, when Eglon was found dead, many Moabites attempted to escape.
 - 2) The Israelites prevented these Moabites from crossing the Jordan.
 - c. The Israelites killed ten thousand Moabites that day.
 - 2. Because of Ehud's leadership, Moab was subdued under Israel's hand, v. 30.
- C. God continues to avenge his enemies.
 - 1. The ten kings in Revelation gave their authority to the beast and made war upon the Lamb, but the Lamb conquered them (Rev. 17:14).
 - 2. God avenged the blood of his servants on the great harlot in Revelation (Rev. 19:2).
 - 3. Christ defeated the kings of the earth when they gathered for battle (Rev. 19:20-21).
- D. God shall overcome, and evil shall be conquered.