

Wednesday, April 24

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Judges 2:10 - 3:31

2 10After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the LORD or remember the mighty things he had done for Israel. **11** The Israelites did evil in the LORD 's sight and served the images of Baal. **12** They abandoned the LORD, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They went after other gods, worshiping the gods of the people around them. And they angered the LORD . **13**They abandoned the LORD to serve Baal and the images of Ashtoreth. **14**This made the LORD burn with anger against Israel, so he handed them over to raiders who stole their possessions. He turned them over to their enemies all around, and they were no longer able to resist them. **15** Every time Israel went out to battle, the LORD fought against them, causing them to be defeated, just as he had warned. And the people were in great distress. **16**Then the LORD raised up judges to rescue the Israelites from their attackers.**17** Yet Israel did not listen to the judges but prostituted themselves by worshiping other gods. How quickly they turned away from the path of their ancestors, who had walked in obedience to the LORD 's commands. **18**Whenever the LORD raised up a judge over Israel, he was with that judge and rescued the people from their enemies throughout the judge's lifetime. For the LORD took pity on his people, who were burdened by oppression and suffering. **19** But when the judge died, the people returned to their corrupt ways, behaving worse than those who had lived before them. They went after other gods, serving and worshiping them. And they refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways. **20** So the LORD burned with anger against Israel. He said, "Because these people have violated my covenant, which I made with their ancestors, and have ignored my commands, **21** I will no longer drive out the nations that Joshua left unconquered when he died. **22** I did this to test Israel—to see whether or not they would follow the ways of the LORD as their ancestors did." **23**That is why the LORD left those nations in place. He did not quickly drive them out or allow Joshua to conquer them all.

3 1 These are the nations that the LORD left in the land to test those Israelites who had not experienced the wars of Canaan. **2** He did this to teach warfare to generations of Israelites who had no experience in battle.**3** These are the nations: the Philistines (those living under the five Philistine rulers), all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites living in the mountains of Lebanon from Mount Baal-hermon to Lebo-hamath. **4**These people were left to test the Israelites—to see whether they would obey the commands the LORD had given to their

ancestors through Moses. **5** So the people of Israel lived among the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, **6** and they intermarried with them. Israelite sons married their daughters, and Israelite daughters were given in marriage to their sons. And the Israelites served their gods. **7** The Israelites did evil in the LORD's sight. They forgot about the LORD their God, and they served the images of Baal and the Asherah poles. **8** Then the LORD burned with anger against Israel, and he turned them over to King Cushan-rishathaim of Aram-naharaim. And the Israelites served Cushan-rishathaim for eight years. **9** But when the people of Israel cried out to the LORD for help, the LORD raised up a rescuer to save them. His name was Othniel, the son of Caleb's younger brother, Kenaz. **10** The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he became Israel's judge. He went to war against King Cushan-rishathaim of Aram, and the LORD gave Othniel victory over him. **11** So there was peace in the land for forty years. Then Othniel son of Kenaz died. **12** Once again the Israelites did evil in the LORD's sight, and the LORD gave King Eglon of Moab control over Israel because of their evil. **13** Eglon enlisted the Ammonites and Amalekites as allies, and then he went out and defeated Israel, taking possession of Jericho, the city of palms. **14** And the Israelites served Eglon of Moab for eighteen years. **15** But when the people of Israel cried out to the LORD for help, the LORD again raised up a rescuer to save them. His name was Ehud son of Gera, a left-handed man of the tribe of Benjamin. The Israelites sent Ehud to deliver their tribute money to King Eglon of Moab. **16** So Ehud made a double-edged dagger that was about a foot long, and he strapped it to his right thigh, keeping it hidden under his clothing. **17** He brought the tribute money to Eglon, who was very fat. **18** After delivering the payment, Ehud started home with those who had helped carry the tribute. **19** But when Ehud reached the stone idols near Gilgal, he turned back. He came to Eglon and said, "I have a secret message for you." So the king commanded his servants, "Be quiet!" and he sent them all out of the room. **20** Ehud walked over to Eglon, who was sitting alone in a cool upstairs room. And Ehud said, "I have a message from God for you!" As King Eglon rose from his seat, **21** Ehud reached with his left hand, pulled out the dagger strapped to his right thigh, and plunged it into the king's belly. **22** The dagger went so deep that the handle disappeared beneath the king's fat. So Ehud did not pull out the dagger, and the king's bowels emptied. **23** Then Ehud closed and locked the doors of the room and escaped down the latrine. **24** After Ehud was gone, the king's servants returned and found the doors to the upstairs room locked. They thought he might be using the latrine in the room, **25** so they waited. But when the king didn't come out after a long delay, they became concerned and got a key. And when they opened the doors, they found their master dead on the floor. **26** While the servants were waiting, Ehud escaped, passing the stone idols on his way to Seirah. **27** When he arrived in the hill country of Ephraim, Ehud sounded a call to arms. Then he led a band of Israelites down from the hills. **28** "Follow me," he said, "for the LORD has given you victory over

Moab your enemy.” So they followed him. And the Israelites took control of the shallow crossings of the Jordan River across from Moab, preventing anyone from crossing. **29** They attacked the Moabites and killed about 10,000 of their strongest and most able-bodied warriors. Not one of them escaped. **30** So Moab was conquered by Israel that day, and there was peace in the land for eighty years. **31** After Ehud, Shamgar son of Anath rescued Israel. He once killed 600 Philistines with an ox goad.

Luke 22:14 - 34

22 14 When the time came, Jesus and the apostles sat down together at the table. **15** Jesus said, “I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. **16** For I tell you now that I won’t eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.” **17** Then he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. Then he said, “Take this and share it among yourselves. **18** For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come.” **19** He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.” **20** After supper he took another cup of wine and said, “This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you. **21** “But here at this table, sitting among us as a friend, is the man who will betray me. **22** For it has been determined that the Son of Man must die. But what sorrow awaits the one who betrays him.” **23** The disciples began to ask each other which of them would ever do such a thing. **24** Then they began to argue among themselves about who would be the greatest among them. **25** Jesus told them, “In this world the kings and great men lord it over their people, yet they are called ‘friends of the people.’ **26** But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. **27** Who is more important, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? The one who sits at the table, of course. But not here! For I am among you as one who serves. **28** “You have stayed with me in my time of trial. **29** And just as my Father has granted me a Kingdom, I now grant you the right **30** to eat and drink at my table in my Kingdom. And you will sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. **31** “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. **32** But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers.” **33** Peter said, “Lord, I am ready to go to prison with you, and even to die with you.” **34** But Jesus said, “Peter, let me tell you something. Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me.”

Psalms 92:1 - 93:5

92 **1** It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to the Most High. **2** It is good to proclaim your unfailing love in the morning, your faithfulness in the evening, **3** accompanied by a ten-stringed instrument, a harp, and the melody of a lyre. **4** You thrill me, LORD, with all you have done for me! I sing for joy because of what you have done. **5** O LORD, what great works you do! And how deep are your thoughts. **6** Only a simpleton would not know, and only a fool would not understand this: **7** Though the wicked sprout like weeds and evildoers flourish, they will be destroyed forever. **8** But you, O LORD, will be exalted forever. **9** Your enemies, LORD, will surely perish; all evildoers will be scattered. **10** But you have made me as strong as a wild ox. You have anointed me with the finest oil. **11** My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies; my ears have heard the defeat of my wicked opponents. **12** But the godly will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon. **13** For they are transplanted to the LORD's own house. They flourish in the courts of our God. **14** Even in old age they will still produce fruit; they will remain vital and green. **15** They will declare, "The LORD is just! He is my rock! There is no evil in him!"

93 **1** The LORD is king! He is robed in majesty. Indeed, the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength. The world stands firm and cannot be shaken. **2** Your throne, O LORD, has stood from time immemorial. You yourself are from the everlasting past. **3** The floods have risen up, O LORD. The floods have roared like thunder; the floods have lifted their pounding waves. **4** But mightier than the violent raging of the seas, mightier than the breakers on the shore— the LORD above is mightier than these! **5** Your royal laws cannot be changed. Your reign, O LORD, is holy forever and ever.

Proverbs 14:1 - 2

14 **1** A wise woman builds her home, but a foolish woman tears it down with her own hands. **2** Those who follow the right path fear the LORD; those who take the wrong path despise him.