

Judges 3: Othniel and Ehud

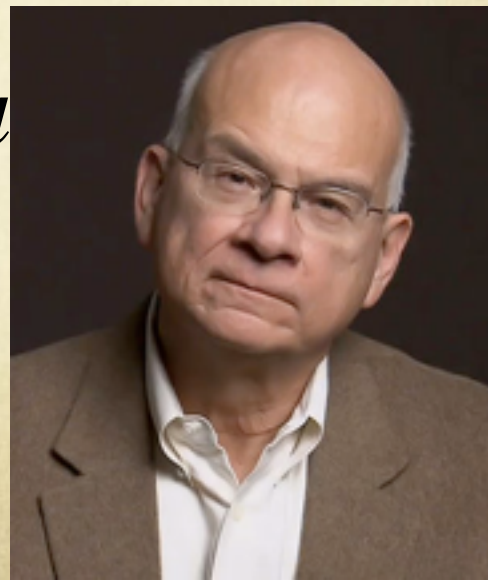
An unusual, unforgettable
redemption



The Dangers of Forgetfulness

- **The need for salvation**
 - Forgetfulness is at the centre

When God is asked ‘Remember your great mercy and love,’ he is being asked to act according to his character. When someone asks God to ‘remember not [my] sins,’ he or she is asking that God would not act on what he knows.” (Keller, *Judges for You*)



The Dangers of Forgetfulness

- **The need for salvation**
 - Forgetfulness is at the centre
- **The anatomy of forgetfulness**
 - Head like a sieve vs. heart like a stone
 - It's not what you know, but what you do with what you know
- **Two kinds of knowledge**
 - Lover
 - Observer

God's Response to Forgetfulness

- **Suffering and tragedy**
 - Burning anger (v8, 12)
 - Divine payback?
 - ...or a divine wake-up call?
 - A measure of the result to save us from the result

Nevertheless, when we are **judged** in this way by the Lord, we are being **disciplined** so that we will not be finally **condemned** with the world.

1 Corinthians 11:32

God's Response to Forgetfulness

○ **Suffering and tragedy**

- Burning anger (v8, 12)
- Divine payback?
- ...or a divine wake-up call?
- A measure of the result to save us from the result
- Wielding the rod to discipline, not destroy his people
- The alternative is far, far worse

○ **Israel's contribution to salvation**

- A cry for help (v9, 15)

God's Response to Forgetfulness

○ **Sending saviours**

- Othniel the expected (v10, 11)
- Ehud the unconventional
 - Uniquely qualified for God's task
 - What's your left-hand?

○ **A short-lived victory**

- A peace that can't last because the Judges die
- We need a shepherd who's always there to guide us

The Solution to Forgetfulness

○ **Fighting forgetfulness**

- Smash the ice!
- Read the Word, together and alone

○ **An unforgettable redemption**

- Ehud points to *the* Judge, Jesus Christ
- Isaiah 52:2-3
- Takes on the enemy alone
- God takes up the sword
- The Shepherd who never dies
- The man who comes under a curse for us