

SHAGMAR USED WHAT HE HAD

Judges 3:31

Ordinary People Used By God Series

Introduction: Most of God's children find themselves in trouble when they constantly refuse to listen to God. More than once God will try to get His children's attention but sometimes He has to allow disaster to come upon them before they will listen and sometimes even his fails. This study is about God's children in trouble because they wouldn't listen to Him except for this one person who did and brought victory to God's children.

I. GOD'S CHILDREN WERE AT THE MERCY OF THEIR ENEMIES

1. The Philistines had completely reduced Israel to almost utter ruin.
 - As soon as Israel would get crops ready for harvest, the Philistines would come get the crops.
 - Israel lost its newborn out of their flocks as well, taken by the Philistines.
 - Even the roads were growing up with weeds for lack of travel.
2. Israel had lost hope and saw no way to fight back. They were utterly discouraged.
 - Israel had no weapons and nothing to make weapons with.
 - Israel had lost confidence in God and their faith was gone.
 - Israel did not see that their disloyalty to God was the source of their troubles.

II. GOD BROUGHT DELIVERANCE

1. Israel's deliverance came from a most unexpected, and unusual source.
 - The man God used had no social position of importance.
 - The man was of no royal blood.
 - The man had no education or military training.
 - The man was just an ordinary farmer. A hayseed. A redneck.
 - The man was just a driver of a team of oxen.

III. WHY WOULD GOD CHOOSE AN OX DRIVER OF ALL TO CHOOSE FROM?

1. Shagmar had a righteous indignation, a discontent with Israel's situation.
 - It wasn't Israel's lack of having things as in the case of many of us.
 - It wasn't because of boredom or restlessness due to lack of being able to travel.
2. Shagmar was upset because Israel was being humiliated, enslaved and robbed.
 - It made him "boil" with anger, rage and rebellion.
 - He wasn't content to just sit there and whine and cry because things were bad.
 - He had come to the place that he decided that he and God were going to do something about it.
3. The story is told of an eagle hatched along with chickens. It was laughed at by all the others as it grew up different. It didn't know what it was good for, it certainly didn't care about doing what the chickens were doing. One day it saw a speck in the sky and heard a strange cry from the air. Inside it began to feel something different. Slowly it stretched its wings, flapped them once or twice and was quickly high in the sky. It had out who and what it was. It wasn't made for the

ground, but for the sky and it was never content with the barnyard again.

4. God's children are not made for this world. Our home is far away from here.
 - Is there discontent within you somewhere?
 - Are you content with what you are?
 - Israel had made up it's mind that they had to accept the situation.
 - Shagmar made up his mind that he wasn't going to accept the situation.
5. Shagmar was also a man of faith.
 - He could see what was going on around him.
 - He could see the strength of the Philistines.
 - He could see why Israel was under their rule, their disloyalty and disobedience to God.
 - He also knew what God had done in the past for Israel and he believed that God could do it again if things were right.
6. Shagmar dared to step out on faith that God would step in IF he would step out.
 - He did step out, risking his life and everything else.
 - He felt that he would go out fighting for what was right.
7. Shagmar had only his ox goad, a simple rod of wood that he used to prod the oxen along.
 - He used what he had instead of waiting for something better to come along.

IV. WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

1. Shagmar won the fight.
 - Anybody who throws in with God and uses what he/she has, always wins.
 - The lad with the five loaves and two fish turned them over to Jesus.
 - All God needs or requires from us to win the battles in our lives is for us to put who we are, what we have, where we are, into His hands instead of us trying to better things ourselves.
2. Shagmar brought deliverance not only for himself, but for Israel as well.
 - An ox goad doesn't seem like much, but God used it.
 - Our victories through God always bring blessings to others as well as to ourselves.

SUMMARY:

1. What does God's call mean to you at this particular moment?
2. Waiting for an easier time or an easier place, or for more of this or that will never come.
3. If you will make up your mind to use what you have for God, where you are, and put yourself in touch with God, the Heavenly Father, if you will dare to do that, you will have victory.
4. Only dare to begin, and with God's might on your side, you will win your battles.