

## **AN UNFAMOUS TRIO** **Judges 12:8-15**

**You don't have to be famous to be useful**  
- God has a place and effective ministries for nobodies!

### **I. THE TRIO'S CONTRAST TO JEPHTHAH**

#### **A. THEY WERE NOT ...**

1. Poor and illegitimate - see 11:1-3
2. Recruited to fight an enemy - compare 11:4-6
3. Opportunistic - note 11:7-11
4. Impulsive - review 11:30-31
5. War-heroes - read 11:32-33
6. Conflicted - note 11:39
7. Violent - observe 12:5-6

#### **B. THEY WERE ...**

1. Well-established with paternal homes (12:8, 11, 13)
2. Fathers with many children (12:9&14)
3. Buried in specific cities (12:10, 12, 15)
4. Able to reign slightly longer (7,10 & 8 years ... compared to 6)

#### **C. THEY WERE DIFFERENT**

1. More established
2. More respectable
3. More mature
4. More thoughtful

#### **D. CHANGE IS GOOD**

1. Leadership changes in our workplace or church are usually not bad things
2. Different leaders have different strengths that are needed at different times

### **II. THE TRIO'S CAREERS AS JUDGES**

#### **A. GENERALLY**

1. They served later in life
2. Their service was unremarkable
3. They were judges

Over please >

**B. SPECIFICALLY****1. Ibzan** (8-10)

- a. His heritage: Of Bethlehem (8)
- b. Had thirty sons and thirty daughters
  - All married outside of the family
- c. Buried in Bethlehem (10)

**2. Elon** (11-12)

- a. No children mentioned
- b. Reigned 10 years > The longest of the three
- c. Buried in Aijalon

**3. Abdon** (13-15)

- a. Son of Hillel
- b. 40 sons and 30 grandsons
  - Riders on donkeys > Indicating that they were successful yet practical
- c. Recovered his tribe's reputation (15)
  - 1) He was buried in the land of Ephraim
  - 2) The Ephraimites were known as ...
    - Complainers (8:1-3)
    - Conspirators (9:1-2)
    - Cowards (12:1-2)
  - 3) But here we have an Ephraimite who served well as a judge
    - And only about 20 years after 42,000 were killed under Jephthah's rule (see 12:6)

**CONCLUSION:**

**God can use anybody to serve Him ... and most of those who do are nobodies  
... and that's OK!**