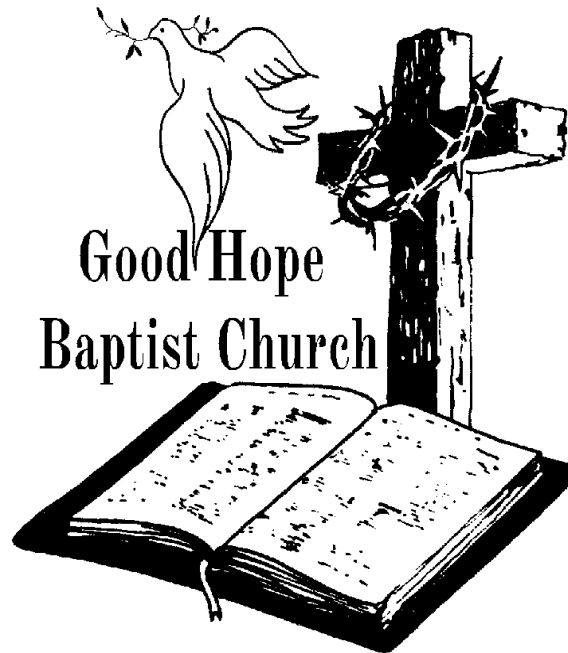


# Don't Be Shamed, Be Shamgar!

Judges 3:30-31, 5:6

Based on ideas from Bro. Bob Pitman's Sermon  
"Shamgar: The Man Who Did What He Could"



Living Together In The Love Of God

4038 Graham Sherron Rd  
Wake Forest, NC 27587

Pastor David Buffaloe  
919-600-4925  
online at bibleteacher.org

**FOCAL Read Together** Judges 3:30-31 <sup>(KJV)</sup> So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest fourscore years. 31 And after him was Shamgar the son of Anath, which slew of the Philistines six hundred men with an ox goad: and he also delivered Israel.

Judges 5:6 <sup>(KJV)</sup> In the days of Shamgar the son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were unoccupied, and the travelers walked through byways.

**Illustrate** A preacher decided to visit the various Sunday School classes in his Church one Sunday. He went to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class and listened for a while, then he asked "Who knows who knocked down the walls of Jericho?" Two boys piped up. "Pastor, we don't know who did it, but it wasn't us!" The Pastor, surprised at their lack of Bible knowledge, asked the teacher "What do you think of their answer?" The teacher replied, "Well, I've known them since they were little, and they've always been honest. If they say they didn't do it, I believe them."

When we read the Bible and prayerfully consider what it says, we find strength and comfort in it's pages. **Do you remember the "Magic Eight Ball" that used to be so popular when I was a child?** You'd pick up the eight ball only when you have a question, shake it, and then your answer was suppose to come up in the window. **I heard of a dear soul once who, depressed, opened the Bible randomly like a Magic Eight Ball to see what God would say to him.** Opening the Book his eyes fell

on **Matthew 27:5**, “**Judas threw the money into the temple and then went out and hanged himself**”.

Startled, he shut the Book, and opened it again, and his eyes fell on **Luke 10:37**, “**Go and do likewise**”. The Lord doesn't intend His Bible to be used this way!

Every Christian should read and study their Bibles, for the Bible is God's love letter to you. Every word written has meaning, and in every word there is life.

One of the Books the Lord wrote to us is called **the Book of Judges**, and I think it's a very good Book for our times. America has fallen, fallen very low, for as a nation we have departed from the Lord. Morally we do what we want to do. **If you want to teach your child about the “Birds and the Bees”, sit him or her down in front of Prime Time television. The child will not only hear about it, they'll more than likely see it.** There are **sixteen homosexual and bisexual characters proudly portrayed on prime time television, and even the more conservative FOX channel has five television shows that promote an “alternate lifestyle”.** In America, we are our own moral compass.

In the Book of Judges the nation Israel had rejected God. The key phrase to this Book is:

**Context** **Judges 21:25** <sup>NLT</sup> **In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.**

Israel had rejected the Lord God as their King, and each

person set themselves up as their own ruler. As you read through the Book of Judges you'll see a pattern repeated over and over – something I think our nation is now going through:

- 1) The people **rebel against God and reject His Word.**
- 2) God sends **retribution** to the people by allowing invaders to harm the land and the economy.
- 3) The people call out to God and **repent of their evil.**
- 4) **God raises up mighty men and women** to lead the people and restore the nation.

That's what the Book of Judges is about.

The Judges, the mighty men and women of God, were used by God to overcome the enemy and restore the land.

Some of these Judges you've heard of. I'm sure most of you have heard of **Samson, the Judge who was powerful as long as he didn't cut his hair.** You probably remember **Gideon and his fleece that he put before the Lord.** You women should remember **Deborah**, the woman Judge. These are all names we heard in Bible school. **But if I ask you about “Shamgar” most of you will have never heard of his.** Shamgar is easy to miss. He's only mentioned twice in the Bible, but Shamgar is an important man.

## Who Was Shamgar?

The Bible tells us that **Shamgar was the third Judge of Israel**. He was a believer that God raised up to deliver a repentant Israel from the Philistines. But that's not the interesting part. You see,

**Shamgar isn't a Hebrew name.** It's a *Gentile name* that actually means “**Sword**”. Shamgar isn't from a Christian family. He is called **Shamgar the son of Anath**. Anath was the Canaanite goddess of war.

How in the world did a Gentile named Shamgar from a non-Christian family come to be a Judge, a defender of Israel? **It's all about the Grace of God**. The Bible tells us that God in Grace and love reaches out to all. As **The Apostle Peter** said:

**Acts 10:34-35** <sup>(NIV)</sup> .... how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.

God wants people of all nations and from all walks of life to **repent and be saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ**. The Bible says:

**2 Peter 3:9** <sup>(HCSB)</sup> The Lord .... is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.

Shamgar no longer worshiped nor followed Anath, but he heard God's call to salvation and **began to follow Jesus**. So many people think that they cannot come to

Jesus because of their past. I believe that the Bible calls Judge Shamgar “**the son of Anath**” not because he still followed this false god, but because he was a known sinner, a person who at one time was far away from Jesus, but the Lord wanted him anyway.

Nobody liked **Matthew the Tax Collector**, but when Jesus saw him He loved him. He said “**Follow Me**” (**Matthew 9:9**), and the Bible says “**Matthew got up from his tax tables and followed Jesus**”. Nobody liked **Zacchaeus** either, but Jesus loved him and said “**Come on Zacchaeus, we're going to your house today**” (**Luke 19:2ff**). Shamgar probably didn't have a lot of friends, a Gentile in a Jewish world, but God loved him and called him to salvation. Shamgar is just like us. The Bible says:

**Ephesians 2:11-14** <sup>(HCSB)</sup> So then, remember that at one time you were Gentiles in the flesh — called “the uncircumcised” by those called “the circumcised,” ... without the Messiah, excluded from the citizenship of Israel, and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus, you who were far away have been brought near by the blood of the Messiah. 14 For He is our peace, who made both groups one and tore down the dividing wall of hostility.

God reached out to Shamgar just like He reaches out to all people, wanting all to be saved:

**John 3:16-17** <sup>(KJV)</sup> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth

**in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.**

Shamgar was not only a saved Gentile, a past Pagan, a child of God by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, but he was also a **common man**. He wasn't born to riches, but he was born a farmer. How do we know this? The Bible says:

**FOCAL** Judges 3:31 <sup>(KJV)</sup> ... Shamgar the son of Anath, which slew of the Philistines six hundred men with an ox goad: and he also delivered Israel.

**Shamgar, whose name means “sword”, didn't use a sword to kill 600 Philistines. He used an “ox goad”, a tool that only a farmer would have.**

What is an “ox goad”? Back in the days before there were *John Deere tractors* people plowed their fields with mules and oxen. Oxen are foolish and lumbering beasts, and though powerful they often stalled and stopped in the middle of plowing. An “ox goad” was a pointy, sharpened stick that was used to poke the oxen and make them want to move on.

### **Shamgar DID WHAT HE COULD**

The Bible says that Shamgar **slew of the Philistines six hundred men**. That's a lot of Philistines! If you compare Shamgar's record, though, with other mighty men listed in the Book of Judges, you'll see that others did more.

For instance, **Samson** killed a THOUSAND men with the **fresh jawbone of an ass (Judges 15:16)**. The **second Judge of Israel**, a man by the name of **Ehud**, led a rebellion that killed TEN THOUSAND men. The **fifth Judge of Israel, Gideon**, killed ONE HUNDRED THIRTY FIVE THOUSAND men with his small band of 300 men.

Why did Shamgar *only* kill 600 Philistines? **Because that's all there were. He did what he could.** He used his opportunity to do as much as he could do for his Savior.

**1** Shamgar did what he could. He didn't use the fact that he was “by himself” or “only one person” stop him from doing his best. He did what he could with what he had. He served the Lord with all his heart. King Solomon said:

**Ecclesiastes 9:10 <sup>(KJV)</sup> Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do [it] with thy might; for [there is] no work, ... in the grave, whither thou goest.**

and the Apostle Paul writes:

**1 Corinthians 10:31 <sup>(KJV)</sup> ... whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.**

God has given us life, dear Christians, so that we can serve Him. If you are **Children of God by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:26)** the Lord left you on this earth to **follow Him and to serve Him. Dr. Bob**

Pitman writes:

**“Every believer is important to the Kingdom of God. All God asks of any of His children is that they do what they can. God doesn't give everybody the same opportunity. There are many preachers that are more gifted in sermon delivery than Billy Graham, but God has given to Billy Graham an opportunity to preach to billions of people around the world. Everybody doesn't have the same opportunity. Everybody doesn't have the same skill or ability. ... But every one of us who belong to the Lord can do what we can.”**

**2** Shamgar didn't let the irony of the fact that he was called “sword” but had no sword stop him from doing for the Lord. What did Shamgar have to serve the Lord with? Himself, and an ox goad.

**FOCAL** Judges 3:31 <sup>(KJV)</sup> ... Shamgar the son of Anath, which slew of the Philistines six hundred men with an ox goad: and he also delivered Israel.

The Bible tells us that when God called Moses from tending sheep to tending Israel, Moses initially wrestled against God. “Lord, if I tell them that You spoke to me, the Children of Israel just won't believe me.” Jesus said, “What have you got in your hand?” Startled, Moses realized he still had his shepherd's staff in his hand. “It's my staff, Lord” (Exodus 4:2) The Lord said, “Throw it on the ground”. When he did, it became a snake, and when he picked it up it became a staff once more. When Moses held “the rod of God” over the waters of the Red Sea God parted them, and

Israel went across on dry land, while Egypt's army drowned.

What is that in thy hand? Use it for God!

In the New Testament our Lord Jesus is watching the people making their donations in the Temple. The rich people come in and, with fanfare and trumpets, applause and self gratification, all put their money in the offering. The Bible tells us that:

**Mark 12:42-44 <sup>(NIV)</sup> ... a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. 43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. 44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything she had to live on.**

What is that in thy hand? If you're born again, use it for your God! If you're given a **talent**, glorify God with it. Magnify Jesus Christ, the Lord Who loves you so!

Jesus was going to visit a Pharisee by the name of Simon one day. When Jesus came in Simon – a curious seeker but no believer – invited Jesus to eat. In those days you ate **reclining, with your feet stretched out behind you**. As Jesus reclined eating the Bible says:

**Mark 14:3-8 <sup>(KJV)</sup> ... there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured [it] on his head. 4 And there were some that had indignation within**

themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made? 5 For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her. 6 And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me. 7 For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always. 8 She hath done what she could ...

Oh Beloved, do not be a murmurer. God despises murmuring and complaining. Murmuring caused the first generation of Israel to die in the wilderness. Lives are destroyed by murmuring. Homes are wasted by murmuring. Churches lock their doors because of murmuring.

**Those who do the least for Christ often murmur the most.** The woman with the alabaster box used that which was in her hand to glorify Jesus, whereas the murmurers used their tongues to soil the good she did. Shamgar didn't murmur – he DID what he could with what he had!

**3** Shamgar did what he could with what he had where he was. He did not run and hide, but trusted in God. The Bible tells us that ...

**Focal** Judges 5:6 <sup>(KJV)</sup> In the days of Shamgar the son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were unoccupied, and the travelers walked through byways.

People no longer used the highways for they feared the Philistines. What did they do? They **compromised, equivocated, snuck around, and hid rather than stand up for God.**

Shamgar didn't spend his days talking about the problem, nor did he hide out with the rest of the crowd. He stood up for what he believed in AND ACTED. He sought to please God rather than please the worldly.

The late **Dr. R.G. Lee** was the Pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis Tennessee before the days of Adrian Rogers. Dr. Lee said:

**“What the Church needs: More action and less faction. More workers and fewer shirkers. More backers and fewer slackers. More praying and less straying. More burden bearers and fewer tale bearers. More tongues of fire and fewer fiery tongues. More zealous effort and less jealous thoughts. More love for the Word and less love for the world. More seeking for grace and less seeking for place. More holiness of life and less bickering and strife.”**

May I say, Amen! Do what you can with what you have where you are. Quit hiding from the world and be the Light of the world. Stand up for Jesus. Read His Word, pray to the Lord, and grow in your love for Him until you are prepared and matured.

Learn to focus on the Lord. If **David had focused on**

**how small he was in relation to how big Goliath was, fear would have become his master. Instead David compared Goliath to God – and God is much bigger than Goliath!**

Too often we allow FEAR to dictate our actions rather than the Lord. King David told God:

**Psalms 56:3-4 (KJV) What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. 4 In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.**

**Those who will be mighty for God seek to grow in their relationship with Him. They read His Word and DO it. They step out in faith and move outside of their comfort zone.**

I can imagine Shamgar walking down a deserted highway at the end of the day. He's been plowing all day, and is dusty and tired. He's on the highway because that's the best way to get home. Topping the horizon, he runs into a small army of 600 Philistines. **The army, believing they've got an easy target, charges Shamgar. But he doesn't run!**

We don't know what Shamgar says, but we know what he did. Six hundred battle hardened, fully equipped and armored warriors come against one farmer who doesn't have anything but a pointy stick. Shamgar doesn't turn and run. I believe he looked up to Heaven and said, "All right, Lord, do Your best", and waded into those men. One pointy stick against 600 hundred swords should

have been a massacre. One dusty farmer against 600 armored troops should have been a terrible mess. **And it was!** At the end of the day Shamgar is left standing with his pointy stick, while all about him 600 hundred men lay bleeding and dying. **He did what he could with what he had, trusting in the power of Almighty God.**

**Psalms 118:6 (KJV) The LORD [is] on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?**

**Philippians 4:13 (KJV) I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**

One who stands up for Jesus in the power of Jesus is more than the mightiest army the world can trot out. God uses those who trust in Him and who do His will. It is God's design that we be overcomers.

**If we're going to be overcomers we *must* stand up for the Lord. We must be light in the midst of darkness. We must obey His Word. We must stop compromising, and start contending for the faith.**

**1 John 5:4-5 (KJV) For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, [even] our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?**

**4 Shamgar did what he could with what he had where he was for the glory of God. The Bible tells us:**

**FOCAL** Judges 3:31 <sup>(KJV)</sup> ... **Shamgar the son of Anath, which slew of the Philistines six hundred men with an ox goad: and he also delivered Israel.**

Shamgar delivered Israel for the glory of God, not for his own glory. As I said at the beginning, his name is only mentioned twice in the Scripture.

He didn't do what he did for the praise of men, but for the glory of God. The Bible says:

**1 Corinthians 10:31 <sup>(KJV)</sup> Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.**

God is not impressed with our personal agenda, nor with our pride. He is impressed with those who live for Him and for His glory. I don't know when Shamgar died, for the Scripture doesn't tell us. But when he died I do know that the Lord said,

**Matthew 25:21 <sup>(KJV)</sup> Well done, [thou] good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.**

If you are a Christian, saved from hell's embrace by a surrendered faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, then **do what you can with what you have where you are for the glory of God.** God will give you victory – but you must, like Shamgar, put your trust in Him.

May God touch your hearts with His Word.



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Judges 21:25; Acts 10:34-35; 2 Peter 3:9; Matthew 9:9; Luke 19:2; Ephesians 2:11-14; John 3:16-17; Judges 3:3

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Ecclesiastes 9:10; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Galatians 3:26

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Judges 3:31; Exodus 4:2; Mark 12:42-44; Mark 14:3-8

**3** Shamgar did what he could with what he had where he was. \_\_\_\_\_  
Judges 5:6; Psalms 56:3-4; Psalms 118:6; Philippians 4:13; 1 John 5:4-5

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Judges 3:31; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Matthew 25:21