

Introduction:

Judges covers a period of time where Israel was being severely oppressed due to not conquering the land of Canaan. Shamgar was the third Judge after Othniel, and Ehud. *After him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who killed six hundred men of the Philistines with an ox goad; and he also delivered Israel. Judges 3:31* “In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, In the days of Jael, The highways were deserted, And the travelers walked along the byways. 7 Village life ceased, it ceased in Israel, Until I, Deborah, arose, Arose a mother in Israel. Judges 5:6-7

I) We Need to Take Advantage of Opportunities

A) Shamgar found an opportunity to save his nation.

1. In Shamgar's situation, saving his nation meant fighting those who were oppressing them.

16 Also you shall destroy all the peoples whom the LORD your God delivers over to you; your eye shall have no pity on them; nor shall you serve their gods, for that will be a snare to you. **17** “If you should say in your heart, ‘These nations are greater than I; how can I dispossess them?’— **18** you shall not be afraid of them, but you shall remember well what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt: **19** the great trials which your eyes saw, the signs and the wonders, the mighty hand and the outstretched arm, by which the LORD your God brought you out. So shall the LORD your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid. **20** Moreover the LORD your God will send the hornet among them until those who are left, who hide themselves from you, are destroyed. **21** You shall not be terrified of them; for the

**LORD your God, the great and awesome God, is among you.
Deuteronomy 7:16-21**

2. The primary job of a judge was to be a military leader.

B) Today our way of deliverance is to teach

**And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses,
commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 2
Timothy 2:2**

1. Most likely there is a chain of people who were taught the Gospel and someone taught you.
 - a. Some one taught the person who taught you, and someone taught the person who taught the person who then taught you, etc.
 - b. Therefore those who will be taught in the future will be those taught by us.

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. Matthew 28:18-20

2. Can we give an answer for our own hope?

¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to do everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 1 Peter 3:15

C) Do we take advantage of our opportunities to worship?

*But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” **John 4:23-24***

II) Shamgar teaches us to use the things we have

A) He used a blunt object.

³¹ *After him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who killed six hundred men of the Philistines with an ox goad; and he also delivered Israel. **Judges 3:31***

1. There are a lot of things he did not have – shield, spear, sword, etc.
2. I am sure those things would have been useful and made his victory easier but that is what he did have.
3. Moses had a rod in his hand.

1 *Then Moses answered and said, “But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, ‘The LORD has not appeared to you.’” **2** So the LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “A rod.” **Exodus 4:1-2***

4. Samson had the jawbone of a donkey and killed a thousand people, **Judges 15.**

B) Are we using what we have?

1. Our influence - everybody has some one watching, listening, to them.

*One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. **John 1:40-42***

2. Our example - remember the children's song "This little light of mine, I am going to let it shine, shine, shine. Hide it under a bushel? No!"

*"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **Matthew 5:14-16***

3. The ability to read and teach the Bible. Most of us can read, write, and speak.
 - a. Just talk and listen to people.
 - b. This leads to results.

III) Start where you are at (physically and spiritually)

- A) He fought those who were there with him.

*³¹ After him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who killed six hundred men of the Philistines with an ox goad; and he also delivered Israel. **Judges 3:31***

*"In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, In the days of Jael, The highways were deserted, And the travelers walked along the byways. **7** Village life ceased, it ceased in Israel, **Judges 5:6-7***

1. There were other enemies of Israel – Moabites, Ammonites, Hittites, etc.
2. Plainly the Philistines were right there in front of Shamgar and he did not need to go some where else to fight.

B) We can work right here (physically and spiritually)

1. Train our children-

*¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²“Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: ³“that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” ⁴And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. **Ephesians 6:1-4***

2. Provide your example at home.
3. Philemon was providing his home to serve God.

*To Philemon our beloved friend and fellow laborer, ² to the beloved Apphia, Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: **Philemon 1:1-2***

*⁷For we have great joy and consolation in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother. **Philemon 1:7***

- a. Philemon's house was a place of meeting and encouragement.
- b. Many have used their house for young Christians to meet, to study, to enjoy being with each other.

IV) Don't Be Discouraged About the Place of Others

A) Shamgar has just one verse specifically speaking of his actions.

1. Were others serving God?
2. Did others fight their own battles?

B) Focus on your abilities and what you can do, realizing others are doing the same thing.

1. All the members of the body are working together for the good of the body.

⁴ For in fact the body is not one member but many.

*¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? ¹⁸ But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. ¹⁹ And if they were all one member, where would the body be? ²⁰ But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. ²³ And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, ²⁴ but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, ²⁵ that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. **1 Corinthians 12:14-25***

Conclusion:

I am sure there are many “Shamgars” today. Those who are using whatever abilities and opportunities they have. They are fighting their spiritual battles, spreading the Gospel, and just minding their own business.