



**HOW ONE PERSON**  
**★ CAN IMPACT ★**  
**THEIR COMMUNITY**



**3 THINGS YOU CAN DO**



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Scripture is filled with examples of the difference one person can make when God works through them.

Abraham became the father of a great nation.

Joseph rose to power and rescued not only Egypt but many surrounding nations from a seven-year famine.

Queen Esther, with great bravery, saved the nation of Israel from genocide.

But those are all bigger-than-life names from Scripture. People with wealth, power, position.

What about the average Joes and Janes?

Is the same power available for the no-names, the little people that nobody really knows? Can one person, from their small corner of the country, really save a nation or impact their community?

Let me introduce you to Shamgar.

It's likely that most people have never heard the name, or if they have, it didn't make a big impression. After all, the Bible mentions him twice, both times in the book of Judges. But his example provides three powerful keys for how one person can save a nation, or impact their community?

Judges 3:31 says...

*After Ehud came Shamgar son of Anath, who struck down six hundred Philistines with an oxgoad. He too saved Israel.*

Then in Judges 5:6 we read...

*"In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, In the days of Jael, The highways were deserted, And the travelers walked along the byways."*

Why were the highways deserted? Because the people were fearful. There was chaos in the land. Judges 21:25 gives the reason – *"everyone did as they saw fit."*

**In other words, the people had decided to do what seemed right in their own eyes, to follow their own "truth" rather than God's.**

Sound familiar?

And so, seeing the chaos and weakness of the nation of Israel, the Philistines invaded and attacked.

But Shamgar *"struck down six hundred Philistines with an oxgoad."*

He saved Israel.

What do we learn from his example? Three important things...

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## NUMBER ONE, START WHERE YOU ARE.

We're told that Shamgar used an oxgoad to strike down, or kill, 600 Philistines. If you don't know what an oxgoad is, it's a farming tool.

On one end was a sharp spike, like a spear, used to move the plowing oxen along. The other end was a chisel-like tool used to break up rocks as they tilled the soil. Why is it important to know this?

It tells us that Shamgar was *not yet* a judge. He was a simple farmer, but he started where he was. He saw a need and took action to make a difference in his nation.

If you want to save your nation, just start today, right where you are.

## SECOND, HAVE A VISION.

Shamgar started where he was, as a farmer, but he was a man of vision. You have to start where you are, but you've got to have a vision for what God wants to do with you.

So what is vision? Simply this: *a vision is a picture of your future that creates passion in you.*

Do you have that kind of vision for your life? For your family, your career, your community?

Shamgar had a vision, and he started right where he was to pursue that vision. This brings us to the final thing we learn from his example.

## NUMBER THREE, USE WHAT YOU HAVE.

An oxgoad may not seem like the ideal weapon to defeat 600 invading warriors – and it isn't. But that's what Shamgar had, and he knew how to use it.

He had likely wielded that farming tool for years. He was skilled in its use. Maybe he even used it to ward off wild animals. The point is that when the time came for him to act, he used what he had. He didn't lament his lack of weapons or run from the fight because conditions weren't perfect.

He looked at what he had in his hand and put it to use to save his nation.

We are living in chaotic, fearful times. People all around you have decided to do what seems "*right in their own eyes.*" They've rejected God's principles, His truth.

You may not be a person of great power, influence, or wealth. Maybe you feel more like a Shamgar... but God can still use you to do great things. So start where you are, ask God to give you a vision, and then use what you have to make that vision a reality.

Our nation needs men and women like you who will take a stand for their faith, defend their freedom to live according to God's principles, and love others the way Jesus loves them.

That's how you will make a difference in your family, at your job, in your community, and in our nation. God bless you as you stand firm in God's Word.

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## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What are some ways our current society resembles how Israel is described in Judges 5:6 and 21:25? What are some issues or ideas that contradict the truth of Scripture?
2. God wants to use you where you are right now, just as He did with Shamgar. What's one way God can work through your current circumstances to make a difference to the world around you?
3. Do you have a vision for how God can use you? What's that vision, and what are you doing to fulfill it?



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