

Deborah

A **WO**man after God's own heart...



Servants Meeting

August 20, 2017

Outline

- * Intro to the Book of Judges
- * Judges Chapter 4 and 5
- * Deborah's Song of Victory
- * Deborah: A Prophetess and Wife
- * Deborah: A Judge and leader
- * Why Deborah????
- * Lessons to learn from the Life of Deborah

Book of Judges

- * The book of Judges is a book of cycles.
- * A pattern of behavior was repeated over and over---some 15 times.
- * One would think that the people would eventually get it right...but they never did---a pattern that began in the wilderness and continued throughout the Old Testament.
- * The Israelites had failed to obey God's instructions to drive out the idolatrous nations from Canaan. Instead, the Israelites, time after time, turned to worship of the idols of their neighbors.

Book of Judges

- * To punish them, God allowed them to be overcome by neighboring nations, who mistreated them badly.
- * In the next step the people cry out to God for deliverance, promising to serve Him instead of idols.
- * Next, God raises up a Judge to deliver them from their oppressors.
- * After a while the people go right back to idolatry. Then back to crying out to God and a new Judge brings deliverance.
- * CIRCLE OF TRANSFORMATION...JUST LIKE OUR LIVES

Judges 4

Girl Power...

- *The Israelites sinned again so the Lord delivered them into the hand of Jabin, the king of Canaan who reigned over them for 20 years. They cried to the Lord, and He sent them Deborah the prophetess (fourth judge) who delivered them from Sisera.
- *The Lord chose Deborah to do this great job to emphasize that men are not greater than women.

Judges 4 Cont....

- * Deborah asked Barak to take 10,000 men from the tribe of Naphtali and Zebulun to fight Sisera. He refused to go without her because he trusted in her spirituality as a prophetess and her wisdom as a judge. Also, the people loved and trusted her.
- * She went with Barak after she encouraged him, **“Rise up! For this is the day in which the Lord has delivered Sisera into your hand.”**
- * The Lord fulfilled His promise and routed Sisera and all his army before Barak. Sisera escaped and went to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber, and hid there. Jael killed him while he was in deep sleep. Then she went out of the tent and told Barak, fulfilling what Deborah said, **“the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.”**

Chapter 4 Take Home Message

- * We are one in the Lord Christ and every member has a role, like the unity between Deborah and Barak.



Judges 5

Deborah's Victory Song

- * Deborah's song was the song of victory. She sang it when the Lord delivered His people from Sisera.
- * She began her song by blessing the Lord and ended it by glorifying Him for His great work and grace.

Chapter 5 Take Home Message

- * Deborah's song is a song for anyone in spiritual struggle. It is a song of thanksgiving in the time of joy, for God's great work. We must praise God and give thanks to Him in every condition, **"If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)**

Judges 5:2-5

Deborah's Song

- * 2 “That the leaders took the lead in Israel,
that the people offered themselves willingly,
bless the LORD!
- * 3 “Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes;
to the LORD I will sing;
I will make melody to the LORD, the God of Israel.
- * 4 “LORD, when you went out from Seir,
when you marched from the region of Edom,
the earth trembled
and the heavens dropped,
yes, the clouds dropped water.
- * 5 The mountains quaked before the LORD,
even Sinai before the LORD, the God of Israel.

Deborah

Prophetess and Wife

- * We first read about Deborah in the Holy Book of Judges as a....."**Prophetess**, *the wife of Lapidoth who was judging Israel*" (Judges 4:4).
- * Deborah is characterized as a prophetess. In Deborah's Song, her love for the Lord is described as "**like the sun, when it comes in full strength**" (Judges 5:31).
- * Most probably this is the reason why God chose Deborah to communicate His will to the Israelites.
- * Deborah was considered by the people as God's spokesperson and this helped to establish her respect among them.

Deborah Prophetess and **Wife**

- * Deborah is described as the **wife** of Lapidoth.
- * A wife of good character... A wife that encouraged her household to live by faith, relying on God as she did.

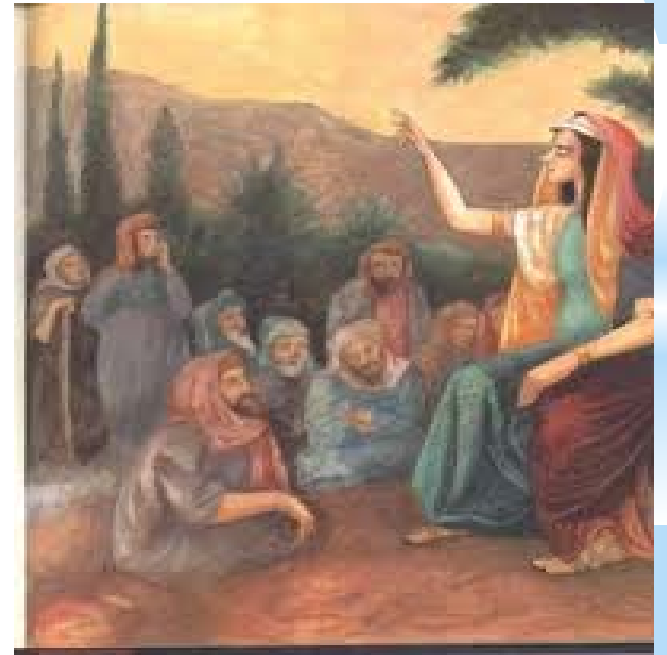


A good wife
can bring balance
to your life

Deborah

Judge and Leader

- * Deborah was a **judge** that mainly settled disputes "*holding court under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim*" (Judges 4:5).
- * Being a prophetess must have helped Deborah to solve these disputes spiritually rather than simply politically or judicially.
- * Also we can assume that being a prophetess the people who came to her to settle their disputes which could not locally be resolved would respect her opinion regardless of the outcome of the dispute.



Deborah

Judge and Leader

- * Deborah was not a military leader nor did she pretend to be one to assert her judgeship or standing in the eyes of the Israelites.
- * She was historically not characterized as one who demanded authority or as one who always insisted upon her own way.
- * Deborah called upon Barak, a known military man, in the name of the Lord to lead the Israelites in battle against the Canaanites of Hazor. She then passed down to him the instructions given to her by God.
- * The Israelites under Deborah's strong leadership would come to enjoy forty years of peaceful times.



Why Deborah??????

*Strength of Character:

- * Deborah's relationship with God was first. As we mentioned, she was a wife, perhaps even could have been a mother, and she was a judge.
- * She balanced many roles and with each role we are not told she did not have "the time" to fulfill a certain role.
- * She served God faithfully and God provided Deborah a way to balance all her roles according to His calling.
- * Deborah's spirituality, power, and inner peace were not disturbed by either adversity or prosperity. She was stable and of strong character.

Why Deborah????

*Modesty:

- * With all the respect, acclaim, and power that go along with the denotation of prophetess and judge, Deborah remained modest.
- * She was an obedient servant. She willingly without hesitation carried out the will of God.
- * In her song, "The Song of Victory" she gave credit to God and the battle's leader Barak omitting any role she may have played in the defeat of the Canaanites of Hazor.

Lessons to learn from the life of Deborah

* Her Unwavering Faith:

- * She was convinced of the message God had given her, the promise of victory over their enemies. She was able to recognize God's voice in a time when most of the people had forgotten about God and were worshipping idols. Deborah listened to God. And she was willing to lay her life on the line regarding this message from God.
- * Have faith even against the incredible odds of our lives.
- * Too often we are fearful about letting faith be our guide.
- * We learn from Deborah that having a strong faith means we have to follow where God is leading us knowing that if the valley gets dark, God walks with us, even in the most difficult situations.

Lessons Learned...

- * **God can accomplish great things through people who are willing to be led by Him... How???**
 - * Become a new Man/Woman
 - * Listen to and Obey God's Words
 - * Pray and ask God to take the lead
 - * Be Willing to Go Wherever and Do Whatever God thinks Best
 - * Praise a Lot
 - * Don't be in a hurry.....to take a GIANT step
 - * But, You have to be willing to TAKE A STEP....

Lessons Learned...

***Wise leaders surround themselves with the right people:**

- * Wise leaders know their limits
- * They surround themselves with people who are skilled and talented
- * They realize they don't need to know everything about everything, but rather find people who are experts in their particular area...
- * They are willing to take a back seat for the greater good..
- * They strengthen and encourage others on their team...

Lessons Learned...

- * **God looks at the heart:**

- * God treats people by their skills, abilities and faith and not by their gender.

- * God can call us, whoever we may be. There is no limitation because of our birth, because of who we are, what we look like, when it comes to God's call.

- * **As St. Paul writes in Galatians 3:28**

- *²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, **there is neither male nor female**; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Recap...

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