



A Faithful Woman and Her God

Judges 4-5

September 11, 2022

⁶ “In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were abandoned, and travelers kept to the byways.

⁷ The villagers ceased in Israel; they ceased to be until I arose; I, Deborah, arose as a mother in Israel.

¹² “Awake, awake, Deborah! Awake, awake, break out in a song! Arise, Barak, lead away your captives, O son of Abinoam.
Judges 5:6–7, 12 (ESV)

The Big Idea: God often uses **unlikely** people and **uncommon** means to accomplish His purposes and fulfill His promises. Deborah’s story shows us how a woman can be spiritually **strong** and an inspiration to both women and men!

4 And the people of Israel again *did what was evil* in the sight of the LORD after Ehud died. ² *And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin* king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-hagoyim. ³ *Then the people of Israel cried out to the LORD for help*, for he had 900 chariots of iron and he oppressed the people of Israel cruelly for twenty years.

THREE UNEXPECTED “HEROES” IN GOD’S STORY

1. Deborah

⁴ Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. ⁵ She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the people of Israel came up to her for judgment. ⁶ She sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali and said to him, “Has not the LORD, the God of Israel, commanded you, ‘Go, gather your men at Mount Tabor, taking 10,000 from the people of Naphtali and the people of Zebulun.

Truth: Sometimes the most important contribution we can make is calling others to be **faithful** in doing what God expects of them.

2. Barak

⁸ Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go.” ⁹ And she said, “I will surely go with you. Nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.” Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.

Truth: When you follow God’s commands, He will take care of accomplishing His purposes as long as you don’t require getting **credit** for what happens.

3. Jael

²¹ But Jael the wife of Heber took a tent peg, and took a hammer in her hand. Then she went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple until it went down into the ground while he was lying fast asleep from weariness. So he died.

Truth: Obeying the Lord can mean doing things you would never have **chosen** if it was just up to you. But, don’t take this as an example of how to deal with your enemies!

WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THE STORY OF DEBORAH:

1. Our story can only be understood as a part of **God’s** story.
2. Deborah is strong because God’s **words** are in and on her mind, heart, and tongue!
3. She is strong because she sings to the **Glory** of God. [Judges 5]
4. She is strong because she both **encourages** and **rebukes**.
5. God uses whoever He **chooses** to do His work. Remember that God loves to use the unexpected people and means to accomplish His purposes.
6. Scripture teaches that some **roles**, especially in the leadership of the home and church, are for men and not women, without **dismissing** women from other important roles and responsibilities in God’s Kingdom.

Listen to God. **Do** what He says. **Encourage** others to do the same.
Leave the **results** to God.
