

Date: 8.16.24

Sermon: Ted Rastatter

Text: Judges 5

Questions: Ted Rastatter

Overview: Judges 5 tells us that God's people always have a reason to sing. God still fights for His people, He calls us to participate in His work, and ultimately He wins. Deborah and Barak's song looks back at God's faithfulness, calls Israel out of sitting on the sidelines, and celebrates God's decisive victory over His enemies. Israel's deliverance points us to the greater victory of Christ through His death and resurrection. So, we know even when circumstances look bleak, as they did in the days of Deborah and Barak, Jesus is still fighting, calling His people to faithfulness, and will ultimately defeat every enemy. So, you and I have a reason to sing. Don't leave the group without singing to the Lord.

Questions:

1. Vs. 6-8 look back to a time that seemed bleak in Israel. Look at these verses and discuss what seems bleak about them. Then answer the question: Where have you seen God remain faithful in your own life, especially during circumstances that felt bleak or uncertain?
2. Deborah praises the tribes who were willing to risk their lives and challenges those who stayed on the sidelines (vv. 12–18, 23). What are some ways we can be tempted to remain passive when God is calling us to act? Where might God be calling you to move from "searching your heart" to faithful obedience?

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3. Occasionally, you might hear someone say, *“The God of the Old Testament seems a lot different from the New Testament.”* Of course, God is the same yesterday, today and forever. But how do we make sense of God’s unity when there is obvious tension between loving your enemies and holding Jael up as a hero? — Here’s a challenge. Instead of using “I think” to answer this question, use “the Bible says.”
4. The song celebrates God as the one who fights for His people and ultimately brings victory (vv. 4–5, 20–21, 31). How does knowing that God is ultimately the one who wins change the way we face spiritual battles, opposition, or personal struggles?