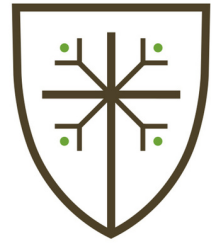


# SERMON NOTES



March 5, 2023

## RIGHT IN THEIR OWN EYES

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

Sermons for Lent

### SERMON INFO

#### TITLE

Deborah and Barak

#### PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

#### TEXTS

from Judges 4

James 1:5-8

Matthew 13:44-46

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your "Jabin," the vice that is the enemy within that you cannot shake?
2. Is there a time when you've seen the Lord work through the weak, vulnerable, poor of the world to bring about his plans?

### SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Tim continued our Lenten series on the book of Judges with a look at the characters of Deborah, Jael, and Barak. Surprisingly, Barak shows up in the "hall of faith" in Hebrews. But why? To answer this, Tim took us through three points – the closeness of sin, the role of women, and the question of Barak.

#### Closeness of Sin

The person of Jabin king of Canaan is mentioned several times in our passage, always with the modifier "king of Canaan." The enemies of Israel are coming from closer and closer in. Jabin is the closest, the most familiar, of all the oppressors we've seen thus far. And this is, appropriately, where Lent directs us to look – closer and closer to the interior of our heart. In Jabin, we are meant to see the enemy that is within us all.

#### Role of Women

Judges represents a low point for the people of Israel, further and further into the land of promise and further and further away from the God who gave it to them. Amidst this, two women take center stage – Deborah and Jael. Over and over, throughout the old and new testaments, God chooses the unexpected, the lowly and the weak in the world's eyes to do his work (1 Cor. 1:27-29). And Deborah tells Barak that this is what will take place once again. That his victory over Jabin and Sisera would be at the hands of a woman. Jael is perfectly placed to fulfill this, to carry out God's designs. Sisera doesn't even imagine she could be a threat, yet she ends up killing him. The Lord's strength, his presence, is seen through this woman. Jael is the sign the Lord has been there, his "silver bullet."

#### The Question of Barak

Often the Lord has to take us down before he can raise us up. When Deborah tells Barak the Lord's words, he qualifies them, "I'll follow the Lord's word IF..." He wants veto power, to put stipulations on God's plans. But Barak is not the hero of the story. Exactly what Deborah said, happens. Barak is in the "hall of faith" not because he was a hero in battle, but because he chose to be faithful even though another would be glorified, not him.

Jesus, too, gave up his glory – both his glory and his life. Through the weakness of Christ, God's power was put on display. Jesus' death and resurrection is God's silver bullet – telling us of his presence. And even so, we are his silver bullet – the sign of his presence to a watching world. So, participate in all the Lord is doing. Do what is right in his eyes. Answer the call, as did Deborah, Barak, and Jael, to get up, to believe, and to follow.