

Judges 4-5 – 21 October 2021

“Bold Women, Godly Results”

Introduction

*Judges covers period from Joshua’s conquest of the land until the monarchy begins or about 330 years

*God has given Israel great prosperity: cities they didn’t build farms they didn’t produce

*But instead of recognizing the grace of God that brought them to prosperity, the Book of Judges’ theme is “*everyone did that which was right in their own eyes*”. Therefore, a cycle of sin & deliverance develops in which God raises up a series of judges.

*Today we get a look at the judges Deborah & Barak

*This gives us a chance to look at some active roles of women

*Some people mistake a submissive wife as one who is passive with no initiative of her own...big mistake.

***Today, Let’s look at 4 bold ways God uses proactive women**

1st bold way God uses proactive women is to stir up others in the right direction (Chap 4:1-7)

Intro

1. Here's the story of Deborah stirring up Barak

Read Chap 4:1-3

1. Hazor is in N Galilee by Sea of Galilee
2. The exact same cycle begins again as Chap 2-3
3. How long does it take us to get tired of our sin?

Read Chap 4:4-5

1. She spoke w/ authority of God as did Miriam (Exo 15), Huldah (II King 22), Anna (Luk 2), & Philip's 4 daughters (Act 21)
2. God used her to adjust disputes in godly direction

Read Chap 4:6-7

1. Deborah is the "woman with the plan" & she wants Barak to lead

- a. Holy Spirit is already stirring Barak, she's just prompting him to listen
2. God often uses women to stir others into action
 - a. Think of Miriam when Pharaoh's daughter found baby Moses
 - i. She was right there to say, "Hey, why don't I help you figure out a way to raise this baby"
3. We should stir each other into action
 - a. Romans 11:11 tells us that the joy of our salvation should be used to stir Israel to jealousy
 - b. Read Heb 10:24-25

2nd bold way God uses proactive women is to speak the truth of God (Chap 4:8-16)

Read Chap 4:8

1. This is pure idolatry...Barak placed in Deborah, what he should have placed in God
2. Barak trusted the Holy Spirit-driven Deborah, instead of the Holy Spirit & His will to deliver

Read Chap 4:9-10

1. So, Deborah prophesies that Barak wouldn't receive the blessing for what's about to happen
2. She's walking w/ the Lord & truth naturally & super-naturally comes pouring out of her
 - a. Remember Vs 5 – Naturally judged Israel
 - b. Here in Vs 9 – Lord gives her a super-natural word of wisdom for Barak

Read Chap 4:11

1. This verse is to introduce Heber b/c in vs 17, his wife Jael will become integral to this story
2. The point; Heber is neither Israel nor Canaanite

Read Chap 4:12-16

1. God's plan given thru Deborah for Barak worked so Barak chases the army to total defeat
2. The indication from vs 6 is that Barak received God's word for what to do but wouldn't act on it
 - a. Barak did the hard work, but won't receive the great blessing he should b/c he didn't speak forth & live out God's truth like Deborah
3. Do you know the story of Huldah? She was a prophetess like Deborah speaking God's truth in the days of the Kings of Judah
 - a. Some people tend to minimize prophetesses
 - b. II King 22 – she was the one King Josiah turned to when they re-discovered the Law & didn't know what was right or what to do!

3rd bold way God uses proactive women is courage to act in crucial moments (Chap 4:17-24)

Read Chap 4:17-21

1. Jael turns on Sisera (milk instead of water), betrays & kills him
2. Heber made peace w/ the evil Canaanites, whereas his wife Jael had evil show up at the door & took action
 - a. Don't go looking for evil, but if it shows up, deal with it
 - b. Jael had the courage in that crucial moment to disobey an ungodly decision from her husband and deal with the evil
 - i. The only time to disobey any authority is when they force an ungodly action.
3. Do you have the courage in crucial moments to stir up godliness, even if it causes conflict?

Read Chap 4:22-24

1. Jael didn't kill Sisera from simple, pure self-preservation. She chose to side w/ God's people.
2. And they here finish the rout of the Canaanites

There's another woman who stood at the crucial moment that you should remember...Esther

1. Stakes were high for Esther – Here life or death
2. Stakes were high in the situation –
Extermination of all Israel
3. Yet God equipped her with the courage to act!
 - a. And she did, she willingly agreed by faith!
4. Esther & Jael's proactive faith & courage lead to great blessing for them & all Israel

4th bold way God uses proactive women is to praise Him (Chap 5:1-31)

Intro – Chapter 5 known as Deborah's Song

1. In Heb. there're 8 stanzas, we'll take it that way
2. It takes boldness to praise God in the storms

Read Chap 5:1-3

1. Praise the Lord for helping Israel when they willingly came to Him

Read Chap 5:4-5

1. The strong Lord of Mt. Sinai is w/ them
2. This is who just delivered them!

Read Chap 5:6-8

1. The abysmal situation in Israel
 - a. Travelling was unsafe, so they moved to cities
 - b. Idolatry, corrupt judgement (gates), little means of protection
2. This reminds them what God delivered from!

Read Chap 5:9-11

1. Calling the leaders of Israel, who willingly choose to serve God, to praise Him for deliverance

Read Chap 5:12-18

1. A list of all tribes that helped (Machir is Manasseh) & those that didn't (Gilead is Gad)

2. Praise must be grounded in truth
 - a. Worship God in spirit & in truth

Read Chap 5:19-23

1. The sway of the battle, from God's heavenly help to the city of Meroz not helping

Read Chap 5:24-27

1. A blessing on Jael for taking out the evil Sisera, the Canaanite man of war

Read Chap 5:28-31

1. Sisera's family must think he delays b/c he's enjoying the spoil w/ his army
2. Let all God's enemies perish, but let those that love you become strong
3. In the Hebrew the poetry is better

There's another woman who stood out for her praise to God...Anna

1. She met Jesus as a baby and praised God
2. Read Luk 2:38 – Praise God toward God, but also toward the people!

Conclusion

So there are some very bold, proactive ways that God uses women. Here are a few ways God's uses women

1. To stir up others in the right direction

- a. When we live a life on fire for God, speaking our love for Him, it will stir others up

2. To speak the truth of God

- a. Closer we get to God's Word, the more it will naturally & super-naturally flow out our mouths

3. To act with courage in crucial moments

- a. Those who stay close to the Lord can be assured that they're already prepared to face the day of challenge

- b. God will give you what to speak and do.

4. To praise Him

- a. Sounds easy but in the hard times – pride keeps us from praising God.

- b. In the easy times – selfishness keeps us from praising God.....it takes great boldness!