



Text: Judges 5: 7- 18, 24-31

”There was great indecision.” Why?

- 1) Love of _____
- 2) Love of _____
- 3) Love of _____
- 4) Love of _____

The Plain Truth

Indecisiveness _____ us, while decisiveness
_____ us.

What leads to being Decisive?

- 1) Love of _____
- 2) Love of neighbor
- 3) Love of _____...a life worth living
- 4) Love of _____

June 4 & 5, 2016

Gladiators

Deborah the “Wonder Woman of the Old Testament”
Personal Study • Week of June 5

The book of Judges gives a picture of Israel’s downward spiral after the death of Joshua. Because God’s people failed to completely drive out the inhabitants of Canaan as the Lord had instructed, they soon merged with the idolatrous practices of the land and fell prey to their enemies (see Judges 2:10-15).

Still the Lord in His mercy “raised up judges to rescue the Israelites from their attackers... Whenever the LORD raised up a judge over Israel, He was with that judge and rescued the people from their enemies throughout the judge’s lifetime... But when the judge died, the people returned to their corrupt ways, behaving worse than those who had lived before them. They went after other gods, serving and worshiping them. And they refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways” (Judges 2:16, 18a, 19).

Deborah was a judge the Lord raised up. “She would sit under the Palm of Deborah, between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites would go to her for judgment” (Judges 4:5). One day she called for Barak son of Abinoam, and at the Lord’s command, told him to call for 10,000 warriors and defeat King Jabin and his vicious commander Sisera. Through Deborah, the Wonder Woman of the Old Testament, and Jael wife of Heber the Kenite, God gave victory to His people.

Read Judges 4:8-24

The Lord’s victory was actually at the hands of *two* women. God used not only Deborah, but Jael, wife of Heber the Kenite, to take down evil.

1. Gruesome as the image is in v21, Jael recognized evil when it came to her door. Why must we become ruthless when it comes to taking out evil?

Evil is not passive, but relentlessly seeks to steal, kill, and destroy you and those you love. What happens if we don’t rise up and decisively take it out?

In the Song of Deborah (Judges 5) both Deborah and Barak rise up at God’s command and march against their enemies (v12-13). But among some tribes, there is great indecision (vv15-17). When leaders lead well, everyone wins. But when those whom God calls do not rise up in obedience, everyone loses.

2. What can cause great indecision? But also, what can stir us to great decision, being quick to respond and courageous, when it comes to taking out evil?

*Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil.
He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.
Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith.*

1 Peter 5:8-9a