

Sermon: *Unexpected Legacy- Deborah & Jael*

Scripture: *Judges 4*

After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the Lord or remember the mighty things he had done for Israel. The Israelites did evil in the Lord's sight and served the images of Baal. They abandoned the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They went after other gods, worshiping the gods of the people around them. And they angered the Lord. They abandoned the Lord to serve Baal and the images of Ashtoreth. This made the Lord burn with anger against Israel, so he handed them over to raiders who stole their possessions. He turned them over to their enemies all around, and they were no longer able to resist them. Every time Israel went out to battle, the Lord fought against them, causing them to be defeated, just as he had warned. And the people were in great distress. Judges 2:10-15

Then the Lord raised up judges to rescue the Israelites from their attackers. Judges 2:16

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. For the Lord took pity on his people, who were burdened by oppression and suffering. 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 2:18-19

*Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, now that Ehud was dead. So the Lord sold them **into the hands** of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. Sisera, the commander of his army, was based in Harosheth Haggoyim. Because he had nine hundred chariots fitted with iron and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the Lord for help. Judges 4:1-3*

Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided. Judges 4:4-5

GOD'S CALL SUPERSEDES CULTURAL NORMS

One day she [Deborah] sent for Barak son of Abinoam, who lived in Kedesh in the land of Naphtali. She said to him, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, commands you: Call out 10,000 warriors from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun at Mount Tabor. And I will call out Sisera, commander of Jabin's army, along with his chariots and warriors, to the Kishon River. There I will give you victory over him." Judges 4:6-7

"Barak said to her [Deborah], 'If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go.'" Judges 4:8

"Certainly, I will go with you," said Deborah. 'But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman.'" Judges 4:9

"Now Heber the Kenite...pitched his tent by the great tree..." Judges 4:11

Then Deborah said to Barak, "Get ready! This is the day the Lord will give you victory over Sisera, for the Lord is marching ahead of you." So Barak led his 10,000 warriors down the slopes of Mount Tabor into battle. When Barak attacked, the Lord threw Sisera and all his chariots and warriors into a panic. Sisera leaped down from his chariot and escaped on foot. Then Barak chased the chariots and the enemy army all the way to Harosheth-Haggoyim, killing all of Sisera's warriors. Not a single one was left alive. Judges 4:14-16

"Meanwhile, Sisera ran to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, because Heber's family was on friendly terms with King Jabin of Hazor. ¹⁸ Jael went out to meet Sisera and said to him, "Come into my tent, sir. Come in. Don't be afraid." So he went into her tent, and she covered him with a blanket. Judges 4:17

"I'm thirsty" he said, "Please give me some water." Judges 4:19

"Stand in the doorway of the tent. 'If someone comes by and asks you, "Is anyone in there?" say No." Judges 4:20

Jael, Heber's wife, picked up a tent peg and a hammer and went quietly to him while he lay fast asleep, exhausted. She drove the peg through his temple into the ground... Judges 4:21

She drove the peg through his temple into the ground, and he died. Judges 4:21

So he went in with her, and there lay Sisera with the tent peg through his temple—dead. Judges 4:22

"Most blessed of women be Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, most blessed of tent-dwelling women... Her hand reached for the tent peg, her right hand for the workman's hammer. She struck Sisera, she crushed his head...she shattered and pierced his temple. At her feet he sank, he fell; where he sank, there he fell—dead." Judges 5:24-27

Are they not finding and dividing the spoils: a woman or two for each man... Judges 5:30

Judges 5:31: *Then the land had peace forty years. Judges 5:31*

YOU CAN LEAVE AN UNEXPECTED LEGACY WHEN YOU FOLLOW THE ONE WHO CREATED YOU AND CALLED YOU TO HIMSELF.

My grace is sufficient for you for my power is made perfect in weakness. 2 Corinthians 12:9

But may all who love the Lord be like the sun when it rises in its strength. Judges 5:31