

The Problem is not the Problem

Judges 5:6-9

In the days of **Shamgar**, and in the days of Jael, **people avoided the main roads**, and travelers stayed on winding pathways. v7 - There were few people left in the villages of Israel - **UNTIL Deborah arose** as a mother for Israel. v8 - When Israel chose new gods, **war erupted** at the **city gates**. **Yet not a shield or spear could be seen among 40,000 warriors** in Israel! v9 - **My heart is with the commanders of Israel, which those who VOLUNTEERED for WAR!** Praise the Lord!

- Shamgar - God on the move / nickname for new opportunity
- War erupted at the CITY GATES

—war - praise the Lord! hard to find in Bible war w/o praise - that is, if there is victory

HOW'D WE GET HERE?!

Judges - 3000 years ago, *Hiding and oppressed in their own promised land?*
History... Joshua brings Gods ppl into their promised land, Gods people have seen waters part, walls fall, enemies flee —> Up until this point, God has driven out their enemy and brought them victory in every area...

Josh 24:12 - it was not your swords or bows that brought you victory. I gave you land you had not worked on, and I gave you towns you did not build-the towns where you are now living. I gave u vineyards & olive groves for food, though u did not plant them. Josh 24:8 - they fought against you, but I destroyed them before you. I gave you victory over them, and you took possession of their land...

How'd we go from —> **Conquering to cowering?** **Dominance to defeat?**
Overcoming to Oppression? **Promise to powerless?**

Did their enemy become stronger? Did God go back on His promise? NO!!

THE PROBLEM IS NOT THE PROBLEM —> this is not a flesh and blood problem

Ephesians 4:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

The enemy is not their problem, **disobedience is!!** 1 Command - GET rid of them ALL
Josh 23:7 do not associate w/ the people still remaining in the land.

After Battles/victories... (compromise sneaks in) driving out —> slaves —> friends
not so scary...I can control enemy and he can help me build my house

COMpromise - trying to mix my way WITH Gods promise (blame Him for results)

BIG IDEA: Gods way WITH my way never works!!! We get all upset at God...

GOD - "I didn't let the enemy in, i drove him out, but you became friends w/ him..."

SO NOW...

They are slaves in their own promise —> how miserable

HOW miserable to live in a place God gave you but be bossed around by the enemy

The Problem is not the Problem

“but God ... who is rich in mercy...Raises up deliverers... Judges

Deborah comes in to the scene.....

Judges 5:7 - Deborah Arose, a mother in Israel

Judges 5:4-6 Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. 5 She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, & the Israelites went up to her to have disputes decided. 6 One day she sent for Barak. She said to him, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel commands you: Call out 10,000 warriors at Mount Tabor. 7 And I will call out Sisera, Commander of Jabins army, along with his chariots and warriors, to the Kishon River. There I will give you victory over him.” 8 Barak told her “I will go, but only if you go with me.” 9 Very Well, she replied, “I will go with you

While everyone else was hiding and the avoiding the fight, Deborah Arose.

What made Deborah STAND up while others were hiding out?

STAND UP!

- 1) Wife - under authority
- 2) Mom - if she hides now, theres no chance for her children (1 day after me...)
Judges 2:10 - after that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the Lord or remember the mighty things He had done
- 3) Firey woman - fire inside of her that was not satisfied just being fruitful/serving in Gods house - there is more —> go command to armies

*****Deborah volunteers for a job she's unqualified for —> VOLUNTEERS FOR WAR**

Judges 5:9 - My heart is with the commanders of Israel, with those who VOLUNTEERED for WAR! Praise the Lord! DAVID- man after Gods heart

SHOW UP!

Judges 4:6 Deborah tells Barak: **God says**, Call out 10,000 warriors, and I will call out your enemy along with his chariots and warriors, to the Kishon River. There I will give you victory over him.

God says SHOW UP @ Kishon River —> **I will CALL OUT your enemy** in the VALLEY

God: “I WILL GIVE YOU VICTORY when you face your enemy (not fight him - the fight is fixed, i just need you to face him)

Kishon - hard: sore (painful place) —>Show up in the hard/painful place

#1-SHOW UP in the hard place #2- SHOW UP TOGETHER

Judges 4:8-9 - Barak told Deborah “I will go, but **only if you go with me.**” 9 - Very well, she replied “**I will surely go with you;** but there will be no glory for you in the journey you are taking, for the Lords victory over Sisera will be at the hands of a woman.” So Deborah **went w/ Barak**

The enemy is terrified of our TOGETHERING ... you think the past year has been about politics & a pandemic ... **the problem is not the problem** oh no!!!

The Problem is not the Problem

UNITY is a problem for the devil

—> the enemy knows time is running out and he knows ***there is a remnant left in the earth that will bring about the last day outpouring***

...he knows divide = conquer ...1 can put 1,000 ...unity=commanded blessing

When WE show up in the HARD place together, the enemy is already defeated!

Deborah goes & invites a 3rd unlikely warrior to come into agreement with her and Barak and finish off the enemy - Jael - bad woman

Jael - useful/ practical skill —>shes a tent wife,

Judges 5:24 “Most blessed of women be Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, most blessed of tent-dwelling women. 25 He asked for water, and she gave him milk; 26 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 head. 27 At her feet he sank, he fell; where he sank, there he fell—dead.

God doesn’t use fiery woman or lightning to crush enemy... he uses practical skill
Jael uses hospitality & tools in her home to defeat the enemy & save a nation!!

Where are my Jaels who feel like you are just a tent wife.....

YOU are who God will use to crush the head of the enemy...

—>you who the enemy has convinced are good for nothing, overlooked, you been hiding out in your tent too long!!!!!!!!!! Gods calling you out today!!!!!!!!!!

In the days of Shamgar & Jael - “when God is on the move, He uses your practical skills to defeat the enemy”

Altar - Stand up / Show up in the hard things / use my practical skills God