

The Power of an Godly Woman Judges 4-5

Motherhood is not an easy task. A mother's influence on her children is the most powerful tool that she can have. God does his greatest work through simple acts of obedience. And I hope that is an encouragement to those of you in the toddler trenches. I know what you're doing doesn't feel like it's an honor. But I think about it this way:

Who was the first person who first taught you that love was unconditional—from whom I experienced that unconditional love first?

Who was it who showed you that you could come to her at whatever hour of the night with any problem, large or small, and she'd always stop to help?

Who walked you through your first break-up?

Who did you run home to when I'd had a terrible day at school?

Whose voice did you most need to hear when someone had been unkind to you?

Who always believed the best about you and never gave up on you?

Those moments shaped you in profound ways, even though they were hidden, private, and (seemingly) mundane. We have all been the beneficiaries of that humble obedience. Sacrifice and compassion—done with hiddenness and humility—is never wasted in God's kingdom. That's the path of Jesus, who served those closest to Him to the point of death.

On this Mother's Day, I want to honor the mothers—the biological mothers, and the spiritual mothers. Your role matters. Your role is a crucial part of God's kingdom, a beautiful dimension of His creation, and an indispensable component of His mission. We all thank you for being a reflection of Christ. There is an extraordinary woman in the Old Testament that I'd like us to learn from today. We first read about her in Judges chapter 4.

“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

Deborah is God's answer to their agony and holds a unique place in Biblical history as the first and only woman to be both a judge and a prophetess.

Deborah's name literally means, *“Honeybee.”* One commentator remarked that she was *“sweet to her friends and sharp to her foes.”* God used this bold bee to sting Sisera.

- She Was An Extraordinary Woman.

Deborah had at least four jobs – all women can relate to this.

She was a wife.

She was a mother.

She was a judge.

She was a prophetess who spoke God's Word to the people.

Her job was not to tell people what she thought, but to tell people what God thought.

She Settled Disputes.

She was an arbitrator and a peacemaker. Every mom can relate to this. Moms hold things together. Godly women have been doing this for centuries—as wives and mothers and in many other ways. Deborah’s prior experience in her own home prepared her to be a judge and prophet.

Where would the church, and for that matter, the world, be without women like Deborah?

She Was Greatly Respected.

In that culture, women were not treated equally with men and were generally relegated to behind-the-scenes roles. To be as esteemed as she was, Deborah excelled in wisdom and had a Godly understanding of people and their problems. She was known as a woman who walked with God.

Prophetesses were common in Scripture. Miriam (Exodus 15:20), Huldah (2 Kings 22:14), Noadiah (Nehemiah 6:14), the wife of Isaiah (Isaiah 8:3), Anna (Luke 2:36) and the four daughters of Phillip (Acts 21:9) all fulfilled this role.

She Obeyed God.

She did not take the mantle of ministry upon herself, but was simply obedient to the purpose God had for her. She was summoned by God, and she obeyed. As Henry Blackaby has said in his book *“Experiencing God,”* effective Christian ministry is a matter of joining in with God where He is working, not just deciding for ourselves what we can do for God, then doing it. Without the Lord’s enabling and equipping, we can’t accomplish anything.

Jesus said to His disciples (and us), *“Apart from me you can do nothing.”* John 15:5

You were the first picture we had of God’s love, and I thank Him that the picture is even clearer now than it was then. I want mothers to be encouraged, because God uses simple obedience to change the world. I’m doing some reading in Judges for a sermon series, and I’m going to borrow one of the stories for today. Judges 5:6, *“In the days of Shamgar son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were deserted, the travelers walked along by the byways.”*

They took back paths and cuts through the woods because the roads were not safe. Village life ceased, the home and the family were all threatened. These two verses from the song that Deborah wrote are amazing because she was an incredible woman. She was the fourth Judge in the line of Judges. There are seven in the book of Judges. God raised up a Judge when the nation of Israel would get off course, and many of them are famous Judges like Samson, and Ehud the Judge, and Shamgar.

- **The Power of Women in a Dark Time**

God raised up Deborah, as a judge, in a male dominated society. She was not the norm. She was raised up when the evil Canaanite King Jabin for 20 years, oppressed, attacked, and enslaved the nation of Israel. He was cruel, mean and wicked. He tried to destroy everything that Israel believed in and tried to make them worship multiple idol gods.

The way he did that was to occupy the highways and the roads. If you travelled, it was not a safe journey. It was in that kind of culture that Deborah said, *“I arose, I took a stand as a mother in Israel”* Judges 5:7

It’s interesting that she didn’t take a stand as a warrior. She literally fought. She pulled out her sword, but she didn’t say, *“I took a stand when I saw the road that they were wanting to take my family down was dangerous, and detrimental.”*

She did not arise as a warrior, as a judge, or as a prophetess, although she was. She knew that to turn the nation around, she had to rise up as a mother. The spirit of motherhood came on her.

She decided, “Enough is enough. You're not going to take my babies down that road. That road won't lead to life, to freedom, or to victory. That road will not lead to God.”

- **Building the Right Roads for Our Families**

It's time for the mothers to stand up with the spirit of motherhood and say, “These roads are dangerous they're wanting to take our families down.”

1 Samuel 27:10 says, “*When Achish, the king said to David, 'Where have you made a road today? Where have you built a highway?'*”

Where is the road that you're building taking you to? Every day of your life, you're building a road to heaven or to hell. You're building a road taking you to God or away from God. You're building a road for your family that is going to take them toward God and goodness and the truth of His Word, or you're building a road going toward this world.

Deborah saw the roads were detrimental to the welfare of her children and her children's children. She said to herself, “My children are not going to go down the wrong roads. We're going to fix these roads.”

She didn't just talk about the negative. She said, “If no men in Israel will get the job done, there is a mama bear on the job.” You get a mama who's upset about the way and the direction they're sending her babies, and she'll get something done.

- **Mothers Who Changed History**

The world was in bad condition when she came on the scene, and when she got through with it, it was in a better place. She attributed her success to the fact that “*I arose as a mother.*”

The thing the world and the nation needed was mothers. Mothers that say, “You're not going to do this to my children. We're not going to live like this anymore.” The Bible has many powerful mothers. Leah, a mother who was not in a perfect marriage, gave birth to Reuben and Simeon and Levi, from which the law came. Moses came out of that tribe. Out of an ugly marriage, this great mother also gave birth to the tribe of Judah, through which the Messiah would come.

Bathsheba wasn't perfect, but she gave birth to Solomon, who is famous for his wisdom, power, wealth. Her fingerprints were all over his success. He built the temple, and the glory filled the temple, but her fingerprints were all over his life. He wrote Proverbs 31 to celebrate his great mother.

One mother can affect history. God gives an “A” for effort. Sometimes you feel like you failed. Sometimes you feel like you don't cut it. Sometimes you feel like you've just messed up as a parent, and you probably have, but God gives an “A” for effort in parenting.

What must it have been like for Mary, the mother of Jesus to raise the Son of God?

Think about how these mothers and the roads that they cut and cleared.

Where have you made a road?

Where are you making a road today?

Your prayers make a road.

Your example makes a road.

Your church attendance makes a road.

Your faith makes a road.

Your service makes a road.

You're making a road either closer to God or further from God. You're either making a road to be more like Him, and to be pleasing to Him, or you're cutting a road that goes the way of the flesh and this world.

The Book of Judges chronicles a very dark and difficult time in the history of Israel. It serves as a hinge between the successes of Joshua and leading up to the establishment of the monarchy in 1 Samuel. Judges 2:18-19 summarizes the spiritual situation: *“Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived...But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their fathers.”*

The very last phrase of this book gives us insight into why things were going south for them, *“In those days Israel did not have a king. All the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes”* Judges 21:25.

Seven different occasions we read of God’s people cycling through a period of rebellion which led to oppression, and after suffering for some time, they would eventually repent and then be restored to a time of rest and peace. But then they’d begin the process all over again.

There is a human tendency to drift because our bent is toward backsliding. In fact, sometimes when our lives are too comfortable we start to coast. That’s what happened in Judges 3:30 where we read that *“the land had peace for 80 years.”* During this time of ease, they got soft spiritually and then slid south. This cycle is played out again in Judges 4.

- Rebellion

In verse 1, after a judge named Ehud died, *“the Israelites once again did evil in the eyes of the Lord.”* Judges 4:1

We know from reading the rest of the book that the people became repeatedly involved in idolatry and immorality. Instead of serving God, they became selfish and sinful, turning their backs on God.

- Oppression

“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 3:2-3

As a result of their rebellion, God sold them into slavery where they were tormented and cruelly oppressed for 20 years. The word *“oppressed”* is the same word used in Exodus 3:9 to describe the oppression of the Israelites by the Egyptians. The commander of these enemies was a man named Sisera, who had 900 iron chariots that were used to keep the Israelites in bondage. Plated with iron, they were impenetrable. Drawn by as many as ten horses, each chariot carried a driver and four archers. Pockets on the side carried extra bows and hundreds of arrows and sharp knife blades spun on the heavy wheels so drivers could cut the enemy to pieces just by driving next to them.

We need to turn to Judges 5:6-7 in order to get a picture of how decimated the Israelites were: *“In the days of Shamgar son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were abandoned; travelers took to winding paths. Villagers in Israel would not fight; they held back until I, Deborah, arose, until I arose, a mother in Israel.”* Judges 5:6-7

Matthew Henry points out that the Israelites were unable to do any trading, traveling, or tilling in their fields because the enemy was within their borders and launched their acts of terror at every turn.

- Repentance

The last part of Judges 4:3 tells us that after 20 years of living like this, finally *“they cried to the Lord for help.”* Judges 4:3

I sometimes wonder why they waited so long to cry out to the Lord, but then I realize that we do the same thing today. Perhaps you are going through some deep trouble right now, and yet you haven't turned to the Lord. While it took them two decades before they cried out for help, at least they did it.

It's never too late to come back to the Lord, and it's as simple as crying to Him for help. It's time to cry out to Him. Psalm 106:44 says, *"But he took note of their distress when he heard their cry."*

- Restoration

She Provided Extraordinary Service.

While she is sitting under a palm tree sharing God's Word and wisdom, she sends one of her helpers to bring Barak, an Israelite General. When Barak arrives, she gives him this message in verses 6-7: *"The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you: 'Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead the way to Mount Tabor. I will lure Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands.'" Judges 4:6-7*

She refers to God as Yahweh, His covenant name. He is King and personally committed to a covenant relationship with His people. She is not making a suggestion about strategic warfare; she is giving a command from God Himself. Deborah makes it very clear that if Barak does all this, the Lord will give Sisera into his hands.

Deborah is making some pretty bold statements. Barak is probably not so sure about this. He may be thinking, "What does she know about battling bloodthirsty terrorists?" He knew first-hand how wicked and powerful these fully armed men were. The Israelites didn't even have an army or any weapons. And so, he does what any brave man would do and asks Deborah to go with him! *"If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go."* Judges 4:8

Maybe he asked her to come along because he didn't want to ask for directions! He could have been afraid or worried that no one would follow him. Since Deborah spoke for God, he just wanted to make sure he had access to the Almighty.

He trusted Deborah's relationship with God more than his own relationship with God. He is reluctant to fully obey a very clear command from the *"Lord, the God of Israel."*

Deborah agrees to go, but tells him that he will forfeit any honor because *"the Lord will hand Sisera over to a woman."* Barak rallies his 10,000 troops and assembles them on Mount Tabor. Sisera hears about this and brings his 900 iron chariots to the valley near the Kishon River.

"Then Deborah said to Barak, 'Go! This is the day the LORD has given Sisera into your hands. Has not the LORD gone ahead of you?' So Barak went down Mount Tabor, followed by ten thousand men." Judges 4:14

Deborah is committed to God and to His promises. Deborah gave the word, and Barak did the work. She fired Barak up to go and quickly said that the Lord had already given Sisera into his hands because the Lord had gone ahead of them.

Think about this battle strategy. The Israelites are up on the mountain where the iron chariots cannot reach them. The Canaanite warriors with their fighting machines are down in the valley. By going down into the valley, they would lose their strategic advantage. How can these unarmed Israelites stand a chance? The Canaanites had 20 years of victory and military dominance. Barak had 20 years of defeat behind him. Sisera probably had top military strategists with him. Barak had Deborah. What does Deborah know about fighting battles?

- Confidence In Uncertainty

The truth is that Deborah knew a lot because she knew God! If God commanded it, He would fulfill His promises. In her mind, God had *already* given the victory, even before the battle began. And since the Lord was going on ahead as their true Leader, everything would be taken care of.

It is encouraging watching how God uses women like this in our church. God bless you for your faith and trust in Him. Thank you for modeling what it means to believe in God and for how you behave accordingly.

“At Barak’s advance, the LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword, and Sisera abandoned his chariot and fled on foot.” Judges 4:15

- **God Works In Response To Our Obedience.**

Deborah obeyed first by speaking God’s truth and urging Barak to obey. Barak obeyed, and God defeated their enemies. The word “*routed*” is also translated “*disconcerted*,” which means “*to put in commotion and to disturb*.”

Judges 5:20-21 says, “*From the heavens the stars fought, from their courses they fought against Sisera. The river Kishon swept them away, the age-old river, the river Kishon.*”

- **When Everything Is Against You, God Will Fight For You.**

All of the forces of God’s creation were aligned against Israel’s enemies. The Canaanites worshipped the stars, and now the stars turned against Sisera, and the raging river swept the troops away. It wasn’t even the rainy season. God unleashed the waters of heaven at that very moment, turning the dry ground into a muddy quagmire, with the banks of the Kishon sending forth flood waters that rendered the mighty chariots useless. All the troops of Sisera were killed.

Sisera got away and fled to the tent of a woman named Jael. He asked for refuge because his people were on friendly terms with her people. She invited him in and covered him up.

“Sisera, meanwhile, fled on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, because there was an alliance between Jabin king of Hazor and the family of Heber the Kenite. Jael went out to meet Sisera and said to him, ‘Come, my lord, come right in. Don’t be afraid.’ So he entered her tent, and she covered him with a blanket. ‘I’m thirsty,’ he said. ‘Please give me some water.’ She opened a skin of milk, gave him a drink, and covered him up. ‘Stand in the doorway of the tent,’ he told her. ‘If someone comes by and asks you, ‘Is anyone in there?’ say ‘No.’” But 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, and he died.” Judges 4:17-21

Barak shows up and finds out that Jael had killed his foe, fulfilling the prophecy from Deborah that the honor would go to a woman. This story is about two women, one who used her head and her heart, and another who used her hands and a hammer. Barak and Sisera played much smaller roles.

What can we learn from this account?

1. **Do What God Calls You To Do.**

God is already where He is pointing you to go. Deborah was a wife and a mother, a judge and a prophetess. She fulfilled her calling to her family, and then made herself available to help people live in peace with one another. When God had a message He wanted to communicate, she willingly spoke up. When God revealed a task for her, she took Him at His word and obeyed. What is God calling you to do right now?

If you’re married, your first responsibility is to your family. If you’re single right now, you have even more time to throw yourself into ministry. What is He prompting you to do? Will you be like Deborah and do what God wants you to do, or will you continue to hold back and be paralyzed like Barak was?

No matter where God is leading you, He will always go ahead of you. God has already gone to where He is pointing you to go.

2. Allow Your Wife The Freedom To Flourish.

Deborah's husband is his named Lappidoth. He wasn't threatened by her ministry calling. He even stayed home with the children so she could do what God was calling her to do. One of the most important things you can do is to encourage your wife to *be* all that God wants her to be, and to *do* all that God is calling her to do.

Are there any ways that you look down on women?

Have you been discounting the value of the Deborahs in this church and maybe in your own home?

3. God Loves To Do The Extraordinary Things With Ordinary People.

The key to Deborah's fruitfulness was her faithfulness. Don't tell yourself that you're not good enough or smart enough or whatever enough. Offer yourself fully to God, and He will make the impossible possible. God doesn't see problems like we do because He knows in advance what He's going to do to solve them. What obstacles are you overwhelmed with right now? Is your faith faltering in a specific area? It's time to move forward, even when it doesn't make sense.

4. Recognize That We're In A Big Battle.

God is looking for women who walk with Him and are willing to work for Him. God is more committed to molding our character than He is to giving us comfortable lives. Will you stand up and be counted? Will you move forward on your knees?

5. We Need Each Other.

Barak needed Deborah, and Deborah needed Barak. Jael did her part, and Deborah's husband did his. There are a number of workers in this story, like the six tribes who rallied together in order to do battle. But there were also some shirkers. Judges 5 tells us that there were some warriors, and there were some wimps. There were 12 tribes, but only half of them stepped up to the plate. We don't hear anything from two of the tribes – Judah and Simeon. Maybe because they are so far away. Maybe they felt like this wasn't their issue, so they just disappeared.

We read about the other four tribes that came up with some convenient excuses.

Procrastination (Reuben): "In the districts of Reuben there was much searching of heart." Judges 5:15-16

They may have thought about coming to help but never made it. Some of us struggle with this as well. We might want to do something, but it never gets done. We need to be more like Deborah and do what God calls us to do – right away.

Protective (Gilead): "Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan." Judges 5:17

They didn't want to get involved in something that might get messy and just wanted to protect themselves. They were more focused on themselves than on others.

Predisposed (Dan): "And Dan, why did he linger by the ships?" Judges 5:17

They were just too busy with other things. Their possessions possessed them, and they were not willing to leave.

Pleasure (Asher): "Asher remained on the coast and stayed in his coves." Judges 5:17

They were intent on just relaxing and having fun.

What kind of excuses do you give for not serving or for not growing, or for staying bitter or for occasional church attendance?

Contrast this with what is said about two other tribes in Judges 5:18: *“The people of Zebulun risked their very lives; so did Naphtali on the heights of the field.”*

6. Don't Forget To Give God The Glory.

If chapter 4 is the story of how God used Deborah, chapter 5 is the song that Deborah wrote to recount what God did and to give Him the glory. Music captures our commitment and catapults us to focus on the majesty of God. God loves music. There are so many times in the Psalms that God tells us to sing to Him.

Deborah recalls their lyrics in Judges 5:11: *“They recite the righteous acts of the Lord.”* Pick up some praise music, listen to Christian radio, and sing with enthusiasm on Sunday mornings. It might be a good idea for you to write down some lyrics of praise in your journal or on a piece of paper. You might start by praying and praising through Judges 5.

7. Find A Deborah To Learn From.

If you are a new believer or struggling in any way, it's important that you have a Deborah in your life. Barak drew strength from the faith of Deborah and was able to do what he was called to do because he leaned on her. Find someone to pour Godly faith, wisdom, and leadership into your life. It will take effort, but when a woman walks with God, people will come to her for help.

Commentators believe that Deborah sang all the verses, and Barak responded antiphonally, reciting verse 2 after each phrase sung by Deborah: *“When the princes in Israel take the lead, when the people willingly offer themselves – praise the Lord!”*

If you are a leader, it's time to lead. All of us need to do what the second part of this verse states and offer ourselves *“willingly to the Lord.”* This same idea is repeated in verse 9: *“My heart is with Israel's princes, with the willing volunteers among the people. Praise the Lord!”* Judges 5:9

- It's time to surrender!
- It's time to serve!
- It's time to sing praises to God!

Before Deborah arose, *“village life ceased and highways were deserted”* because of intense oppression and fear. There is a parallel to modern feelings of hopelessness or stagnation. The world was chaotic and uncertain.

This call to action resulted in taking responsibility for the spiritual well-being of those around them.

Deborah didn't rise in her own strength, but in response to God's Word, showing that God uses ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary deliverance.

Unlike a king who might rule by force, a mother leads by nurturing, protecting, and caring for the community's future. Deborah arose when times were dangerous and leaders were hiding. You don't need to be ready to be useful to God. You just need to be obedient.

• The Lasting Impact of a Mother's Road

How much safer is the world because their babies had a road to go down that the mother prepared? How many lives did these mothers restore? How much better is the world because those mothers made a road?

Even Jesus when He was hanging on the cross, He looked down at His mother and said to John, “Take care of her because she took care of Me.”

If you just keep turning to the Bible and what it says, and cut that road, and lay that road, God gives an “A” for effort.

Don't let the TV raise your children. Don't let anybody else raise your children. You be the one that has great influence in their life.

One of these days, you're going to exhale for the last time. The first time you inhaled was when you were born, but there is a breath that you're going to exhale, and you will not take it back in, in this world or in this life.

Mrs. Marlene Bartlett made a road that leads all the way to streets of gold. Today she is walking on those streets. Your family is not going to get there by accident, the road that this world is taking them on is dangerous. It's void of God.

Scholars have pointed out that one of the themes in the book of Judges is how God builds His kingdom through people who are overlooked and underappreciated in society. No story probably illustrates that more than the story of Deborah.

The book is called “Judges,” not because it is about a series of court cases—like the OT version of Matlock—but because it is built around a succession of leaders God raises up to guide and deliver Israel from oppression, called Judges. Deborah is one of those.

- **Deborah Is A Woman Filled With The Spirit Of God Being Used In The Kingdom Of God.**

God has a calling on your life. Don't just to simply sit on the sidelines. Have you discerned that calling and risen up to fulfill it? Like Deborah, you need to get into the fight.

You can, and should, take the initiative in following God. I've seen a lot of women who never take initiative or spiritual responsibility for themselves

That's not what we see in Deborah. She is a leader of initiative with gifting of the highest caliber.

She is the wisest and most courageous person in all of Israel!

In Titus, Paul talks about the importance of spiritual mothers in the life of the church.

“Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.” Titus 2:3-6

My mother took a lot of initiative and spoke all kinds of wisdom into my life. You might say she is the most formative person in my life. That didn't happen by sitting on the sidelines. It happened by rising up in leadership and wisdom.

That's something every woman in the church should aspire to, whether you have biological children or not!

A great prayer to pray over your children is that they grow up to be Deborahs! The church needs a lot more Deborahs!

We need... Deborahs in the home: speaking courage into their husbands.

Deborahs in ministry: leading us to give and pray and go.

We need more Deborahs in society: leading and teaching with wisdom and courage and faith

- **She Was, First And Foremost, A Follower Of God.**

God has called a lot of you to be mothers, and what a beautiful and lofty calling this is.

We live in a culture that constantly berates and belittles women who give themselves to the calling of motherhood, telling them that “just mothering” is beneath them, and they are wasting their potential.

One of the highest and loftiest things you can give yourself to is the beautiful task of mothering.

The church will never be healthy and thriving until both our sons and daughters thrive within it.

While the frying pan isn't in the original Biblical text, modern commentators often use the frying pan as a contemporary analogy for the tent peg to emphasize Jael's role as a "domestic assassin". In her culture, pitching tents was considered “women's work,” making the tent peg and mallet her standard household tools—much like a frying pan would be today.

It's hard to think of a principle more applicable to motherhood. Motherhood is a lot of mundane feeling tasks. Changing diapers. Getting the kids up and ready for school. Running the after school taxi service. Trying to convince your kids that Cheetos and Pop-Tarts don't make for a balanced diet.

For most mothers, stepping into your role has made you feel more ill-equipped than ever. Parenting is hard, and harder today than it was when many of us were kids.

In 1 Timothy 2, Paul says: “*But she will be saved through childbearing, if they continue in faith, love, and holiness...*” 1 Timothy 2:15. We know a woman is saved by grace through faith, not through having kids. Of course, Paul is not contradicting what he teaches in other places about how we are saved.

In Greek there is a definite article before “childbearing,” which means you could read it, “*She will be saved through the childbirth.*” A woman literally brought salvation into the world by going through the pain of labor, giving birth to a baby, and raising Him up in the ways of God. Paul uses that to remind ladies (and all of us) that the greatest accomplishments in the world come not through lofty positions of leadership, but through simple faithfulness to God's callings.