

Judges Study #3: Judges 4:1-5:31

Deborah and Barak

Intro: Have you ever been told to do something, only to be overshadowed by someone else who did the actual work? How did that make you feel?

The account of Deborah and Barak brings the first set of three major judges to a climax. The intrigue of this story is its focus on two women, Deborah and Jael, who overshadows the actual deliver, Barak.

Read Judges 4:1-24

Question #1: Deborah is both a judge and a prophetess. How is her role different from those of Othniel and Ehud?

Question #2: The prophetic call of Barak by Deborah is met with an ultimatum from Barak: "If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go" (4:8). Some have argued that this demand by Barak represents a lack of faith, but Hebrews 11:32-33 states that Barak "... through faith conquered kingdoms ..." How can Barak's request and Deborah's response in verse 10 be understood positively?

Question #3: In what ways does Barak show faith?

Question #4: What do you do differently in life because you have faith?

Question #5: It is interesting to observe that the execution of Sisera by Jael occupies almost 30 percent of the entire narrative account. Why would the Lord choose to work in such an unexpected and unconventional way? Do you have a problem with this?

Read Judges 5:1-31

Question #6: The Song of Judges memorializes the deliverance of Israel through Deborah, Barak, and Jael. What does this song teach us about the events of Judges 4?

Question #7: What happens if we only have a Judge 4 perspective on our life? What difference would it make to you if you always maintained both a Judges 4 and Judges 5 perspective?

Application:

Are there times you can look back on when you have taken a risk in obeying the Lord, and found Him providing what you need as you do so? Are there ways in which you are/should be doing that now?