

**"The Tale of Jael's Nail"**

**Judges 4-5**

**Introduction:** This week it was my full intention to go back to Zechariah for the message this morning but on Tuesday God impressed upon my mind a message from the book of Judges and I do not know why. But I do know that there is a reason. Someone in here needs to hear what God has in Judges 4.

➤ **Background**

The time of the Judges is one of if not THE darkest times for the people of Israel.

**Judges 21:25**

*<sup>25</sup> In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*

Let me show you what happened in the days of the Judges.

**Notice Judges 2:8-19**

This was known as a sin cycle, and it continues to repeat itself the entire way through Judges. The people of Israel had not walked in obedience to the Word of God, and they neglected to exterminate the inhabitants of the land of Canaan and these people then became thorns in their side.

**Judges 2:1-3**

*And an angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swore unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you.*

*<sup>2</sup> And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this?*

*<sup>3</sup> Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you.*

**I. The Oppression**

**Notice Judges 4:1-3**

Because of Israel's sin God sold them into the hands of the Canaanites. One of the main characters in this chapter is Sisera, he is the captain of King Jabin's army.

## II. The Judge

### Notice Judges 4:4-7

The book of Judges is also about God using ordinary people in extraordinary ways. Here we see that God will work through a woman by the name of Deborah and a man named Barak. Deborah was the Judge, and she was given the wisdom to deal with the matters of the people at this time. God had somehow spoke to her that He would use Barak to deliver Israel from Sisera. Looking at verse 6 we see that God had called Barak, but he was reluctant to go so God had Deborah there to prod him to move. He was to take 10,000 men of the tribes of Nephtali and Zebulun.

In Judges 6 there was another man who was reluctant to move, and his name was Gideon.

### Judges 6:11-15

*<sup>11</sup> And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites.*

*<sup>12</sup> And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.*

*<sup>13</sup> And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.*

*<sup>14</sup> And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?*

*<sup>15</sup> And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.*

### ➤ The Request and the Lost Honor

### Notice Judges 4:8

Barak wanted Deborah to go with him. It was because she was seen as the spiritual leader and with her Barak felt as though God was with him.

### Notice Judges 4:9

Deborah would go but because Barak did not have the courage to go without her the honor would fall upon a woman. Barak probably thought it was Deborah, but it will be a lady by the name of Jael.

**Application:**

I need to pause here to remind you that when God places upon your heart something to do that you do not have to go. He will accomplish His will through another person, but it will be you who miss the blessing. You will miss what He wanted to show you as He would demonstrate His power through you.

Remember the conversation between Mordecai and Esther through Hatach?

**Esther 4:10-14**

<sup>10</sup> *Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai;*

<sup>11</sup> *All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or women, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.*

<sup>12</sup> *And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.*

<sup>13</sup> *Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.*

<sup>14</sup> *For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*

You are here for this time and the opportunities before you are placed there by the Lord.

**Ephesians 2:10**

<sup>10</sup> *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

➤ **The Battle**

**Notice Judges 4:10-15**

The battle was launched and in the heat of the battle Sisera came down from his iron chariot and fled on foot. Why would he do this? We find the answer in Judges 5.

**Judges 5:19-21**

<sup>19</sup> *The kings came and fought, then fought the kings of Canaan in Taanach by the waters of Megiddo; they took no gain of money.*

<sup>20</sup> *They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera.*

<sup>21</sup> **The river of Kishon swept them away, that ancient river, the river Kishon.** *O my soul, thou hast trodden down strength.*

Let us remember that Sisera and his army were on IRON chariots. Iron is very heavy. The Lord brought a great rain storm, and the waters of the river flooded the land and turned it to mud. Can you imagine an iron chariot in a field of mud? No wonder Sisera fled on foot.

**Application:**

When God's people are willing to move and serve and step out in faith God can provide victory in ways we never have dreamed of. Therefore as we serve the Lord let us be very careful not to walk by sight. Too many believers will LOOK at a situation and declare that it is not possible to accomplish. If we would have been in the 10,000 with Barak, you would have never guessed God would bring a rain storm to defeat the enemy.

**Notice Judges 4:16**

Here was something else that was unexpected. The enemy fell upon their own swords!

➤ **The Death of Sisera**

**Notice Judges 4:17-20**

Sisera came to the tent of Heber because Jabin had a good relationship with Heber. It is here that Sisera feels safe. The wife of Heber opens the door of hospitality to him and brings him in. She gives him milk and covers him as to hide him in her tent.

**Notice Judges 4:21**

Sisera fell asleep which is a miracle. He was fleeing from a battle where his army was defeated, and you would think his mind would be so filled with concern there would be no way he could sleep, especially in a strange tent. This sleep was of the Lord because this was his day to die. While he is asleep Jael slowly came upon him and drove a tent spike through his temples. How could a woman do this?

Women were the tent builders. She was very skilled with a hammer and a tent spike. She was probably able to send the spike through his head with one swing. This was the woman who would get the honor.

**Notice Judges 4:22-24**

This was the fulfillment of verse 14. Just as God promised so He did.

**Application:**

What an encouragement to us! That we can hold to the promises of God and know that He will be faithful. Any promise that pertains to us He will fulfill.

**John 14:1-3**

*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*

<sup>2</sup> *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

<sup>3</sup> *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

**Hebrews 13:5**

<sup>5</sup> *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

**John 10:27-29**

<sup>27</sup> *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*

<sup>28</sup> *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*

<sup>29</sup> *My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

➤ **The Soldiers**

There is more to this story than we see here. I want to show you what Deborah said in her song.

**Judges 5:14-15a, 18-19**

*<sup>14</sup> Out of Ephraim was there a root of them against Amalek; after thee, Benjamin, among thy people; out of Machir came down governors, and out of Zebulun they that handle the pen of the writer.*

*<sup>15</sup> And the princes of Issachar were with Deborah; even Issachar, and also Barak:*

*<sup>18</sup> Zebulun and Naphtali were a people that jeopardded their lives unto the death in the high places of the field.*

*<sup>19</sup> The kings came and fought, then fought the kings of Canaan in Taanach by the waters of Megiddo; they took no gain of money.*

These people put their lives on the line. Farmers, politicians, office workers all fought for no money. But they received something better. They are forever remembered in God's Word and the victory gave them and their children rest for 40 years.

Now let me show you some others.

#### **Judges 5:15b-17**

*For the divisions of Reuben there were great thoughts of heart.*

*<sup>16</sup> Why abodest thou among the sheepfolds, to hear the bleatings of the flocks? For the divisions of Reuben there were great searchings of heart.*

*<sup>17</sup> Gilead abode beyond Jordan: and why did Dan remain in ships? Asher continued on the sea shore, and abode in his breaches.*

Reuben was too busy searching their hearts, so they stayed among the sheep. Dan was too busy working and Asher stayed by the sea shore in his breaches or at home. **These are forever shamed because they would not help.**

#### **Conclusion:**

There is much at stake today. This church stands here to deliver to you the Truth of the Bible. One day those who are now serving will be gone and so if you desire to see this ministry continue you need to be involved. God knows what you do and what you do not do. He knows your excuses.

#### **Hebrews 6:10**

*<sup>10</sup> For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*