Deborah and Barak

Questions:

1. Read Judges 4:1-5. Why would God raise a female Judge? Why would people obey the judgment by Deborah over their dispute?

2. Read Judges 4:6-9. Why would Barak want Deborah to go with him to fight the enemy? How did Deborah’s answer reflect her understanding of God’s will and her role?

3. Read Judges 4:13-15. Why would Deborah need to encourage Barak again in v14? Why would God waited to make the move until Barak made his move in v15?

4. Read Judges 5:1-2. Describe the humility for both Deborah and Barak in their praising God together. What have you learned from the story of Deborah and Barak?

5. Pray for Good Shepherd members to come to prayer meeting at 10:30am on Sunday to pray to seek and serve God together.

=== sermon notes ==

(page 1) Deborah answered God’s call to lead

Judges 4:4 Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. 5 ..and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided.

1. The cycle again
2. When Ehud was dead, the children of Israel again did evil. King of Canaan, Sisera, the commander of his army, he had nine hundred chariots fitted with iron and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the Lord for help.
3. God’s servant, God fearing spokesperson
4. A wife, but called to lead
5. How did she lead?
   1. Just- Discern and judge disputes
   2. More to come

(page 2) Has not God commanded you to go?

6 She sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali and said to him, “Has not the Lord, the God of Israel, commanded you, ‘Go, gather your men at Mount Tabor, taking 10,000 from the people of Naphtali and the people of Zebulun. (ESV)

1. Deborah never believed that God called her alone to deliver Israel. She realized that God would do much of the work through Barak.
2. God has spoken
3. Barak has not acted
   1. 4:3 Because he had nine hundred chariots fitted with iron
4. Deborah is the prophet, listen and speak as God says

(page 3) Certainly, but shouldn’t you trust God more?

8 Barak said to her, “If you go with me, I will go; but if you don’t go with me, I won’t go.” 9 “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.”.

1. Barak trusted more in Deborah’s relationship with God than with his own relationship with God
2. Yes I go but God called you
   1. Supportive of God’s work but mindful of God’s will
3. Should you trust my company more or God’s?

(page 4) Go, this is the day the Lord make good His word

14 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?”

1. Barak got cold feet again after seeing the 900 chariots and the open field
2. Go, this is the day

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4:14 So Barak went down Mount Tabor, with ten thousand men following him. 15 At Barak’s advance, the Lord routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword.

1. Barak made the move
   1. They had essentially no weapons to fight with against a technologically advanced army
2. At his advances, God made the move

Judges 5:20 From the heavens the stars fought, from their courses they fought against Sisera. 21 The river Kishon swept them away, the age-old river, the river Kishon. March on, my soul; be strong!

1. The flood
2. March on, my soul; be strong!

Heb 11:32 And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised.

1. Barak got the credit? It’s all God

(page 5) Deborah and Barak praised God together

Judges 5:1 On that day Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang this song: 2 “When the princes in Israel take the lead, when the people willingly offer themselves— praise the Lord!

1. No jealousy
2. No self proclaiming, self serving
3. When the 10,000 offer themselves, praise the Lord

(page 6) Reflections

* When God calls, take action
* Be mindful of God’s will, listen to His voice, observe His deeds
* Do it together. Not to fulfill your gift, but to fulfill God’s will together
* When in doubt and fear: March on, my soul; be strong!
* Praise, honor, celebrate God together