

Characters - Deborah

Matt VanCleave

June 25th, 2023

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will trust God has a much better view from above.
- I will turn to God to find strength during the dark days of doubt.
- I will be the right person in the right place to accomplish God's purpose.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

The character we study this week is in the book of Judges, which would have been read with the same kind of excitement and delight by ancient audiences that we get in a great Marvel movie in our day.

The difference is that God is at work behind the scenes to ever so slowly teach Israel and, eventually, humanity that there is a moral and spiritual reality underneath this world, and finding it and conforming to it is the ultimate battle in this world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Matt started his message talking about how everyone loves heroes like Iron Man and Thor. When you think of modern-day Christian heroes, who comes to mind? Why?

2. Pastor Matt describes Israel repeating a pattern of God's blessing, followed by forgetting about God and worshiping idols, and then God giving Israel over to their enemies, finally followed by the people crying out to God for help. Why do you think God's chosen people kept repeating this cycle? Have you ever experienced this cycle in your life?

3. Read Judges 4:3. Why were the iron chariots so intimidating to Israel? Have you ever faced an enemy that seemed impossible to overcome? Now read Psalms 20:7 What can you learn from this?

4. Read Judges 4:4-7. Why do you think God chose a woman (Deborah) to lead Israel as a Judge, Prophet, and the leader of the nation?

5. Read Judges 4:8. Why did Barak refuse to go to battle without Deborah?

6. Read Judges 4:9 In that time and culture, men usually held the places of honor. Why did God give the honor to women in this story?

7. In our culture today women are often looked at as the “weaker sex” who need rescuing by men. Contrast that with the women (Deborah and Jael) in this story who are the heroes responsible for a great victory. What do you think of this?

8. Read Judges 5:24-26. Why is Jael called the most blessed of women?

9. Pastor Matt said that a study showed 95% of women in Christian churches say they have never heard a message declaring abuse against women is wrong. What has been your experience from churches you’ve been a part of?

10. Judges 5:31 says, "But may all who love you (Lord) be like the sun when it rises in its strength." What does this mean to you?

11. Pastor Matt reminded us we serve a really BIG GOD. When you think of God being so BIG, how can this help you in your day to day challenges and problems?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will pray about what battle Jesus is calling me to fight.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Judges 4-5

Prayer Request(s)
