

“Extraordinary Women”

Judges #4

Judges 4:1-24

February 5, 2017

Scripture Reading: Judges 4:4-9

Introduction

Big Idea: God demonstrates deep honor and love for women. Wherever the true gospel of Jesus flourishes, women flourish.

The King and His Captain | vs. 1-3

- Iron Chariots – HUGE military advantage
- Sisera - **BAD** dude, known for raping and pillaging (see ch. 5)

The Female Judge | vs. 4-5

About Deborah

1. Name means “honeybee”
2. Prophetess
3. Judge
4. Wife of Lappidoth
 - a. Carolyn Pressler — Married Israelite women were normally identified by the name of their husbands. Deborah is the “wife of Lappidoth.” The word translated “wife” also means “woman”; “Lappidoth” literally means “torches.” The phrase translated “wife of Lappidoth” could thus also be translated “fiery woman”...The storyteller’s audience would have heard both meanings and would have enjoyed the play on words identifying independent, spirit-filled Deborah.
5. Mother | Judges 5:7

1. Good leaders are hard to find

Some people have a unique gift of leadership, but everybody can lead!

The Call of Barak | vs. 6-10

How to Interpret

1. Barak was weak?
2. Barak was having faith?

2. God’s people are to study the scriptures

A Random Detail | vs. 11

The Battle Location | vs. 12-13

- Cheryl A. Brown — We might find ourselves asking, Who cares? But this kind of backtracking is common in Hebrew narrative. And far from being superfluous, the information is important in setting up the events that will follow; the fact that the author draws attention to it out of place, as it were, serves to highlight its importance even more. We can see in this unusual movement of the Kenites God's sovereign hand at work.

3. God providentially works through “ordinary” means

The Lord's Victory | vs. 14-16

- Clarification: Judges 5:4-5, Judges 5:20-21

A Shocking Ending | vs. 17-22

Victory over Canaan | vs. 23-24

4. Men and women are equal, but not interchangeable

Biblical Tension

1. Sameness:
 - a. Equal image bearers of God | Genesis 1:27
 - b. Equal heirs of salvation | Galatians 3:28
 - c. Equal recipients of spiritual gifts | 1 Corinthians 12:1
2. Difference:
 - a. Biology | Song of Solomon 4:1-5, 5:10-16
 - b. Role | Ephesians 5:22, 1 Timothy 2:8-3:7

C.S. Lewis — The kind of equality which implies that the equals are interchangeable (like counters or identical machines) is, among humans, a legal fiction. It may be a useful legal fiction. But in church we turn our back on fictions. One of the ends for which sex was created was to symbolize to us the hidden things of God. One of the functions of human marriage is to express the nature of the union between Christ and the Church. We have no authority to take the living and sensitive figures which God has painted on the canvas of our nature and shift them about as if they were mere geometrical figures.... With the Church, we are farther in: for there we are dealing with male and female not merely as facts of nature but as the live and awful shadows of realities utterly beyond our control and largely beyond our direct knowledge.

Kathy Keller — The glory of gender roles, for me, is that everyone gets to reveal an aspect of Jesus' life. Jesus in his servant authority, dying in order to bring his bride to spotless purity (Ephesians 5: 22– 33), has redefined authority and has demanded that his followers do the same (Matthew 23: 11; John 13: 13– 17). Jesus in his submissive servanthood, taking on the

role of a servant in order to secure our salvation (Philippians 2: 5– 11), shows that his submission to the Father was a gift, not something compelled from him. At no time is his equality with the Father ever called into question; read through John 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. Everywhere Jesus is claiming to be God (“ Before Abraham was born, I am!” 8: 58), and yet “the Son can do nothing by himself; he can only do what he sees his Father doing” (5: 19). Nevertheless, he willingly assumed the role of a servant for the purpose of accomplishing our justification.

II. Gospel Connection

1. Eve, Sarah, Leah, Rahab, Ruth, Huldah, Esther, Elizabeth, Anna, Mary, the mother of Jesus, Martha and Mary of Bethany, Mary Magdalene, Lydia, Lois and Eunice

Benediction

Romans 11:33, 36 — ³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.