

Deborah: A Woman in Leadership

Study 4 Judges 4:1 - 5:31

1. 4:1-24.
 - a) What are the gifts and skills Deborah possesses (4:4-14)?

 - b) What were the effects of her career? (5:6-9)
2. How is the judgeship of Deborah both like and unlike the judgeships of the Othniel, Ehud, and Shamgar?
3. How does Deborah's career modify both the "strong conservative" and "strong liberal" views of women's leadership?
4. Read 4:6-16 and cf. with Hebrews 11:32-34. Barak is praised for the faith he exercised in this campaign.
 - a) In what ways does he show faith?

 - b) In what ways does he point the way to the ultimate Savior/judge?
5. 4:17-22 and 5:24-31.
 - a) How does 5:29-30 perhaps shed light on the motives of Jael?

 - b) How does God's concern with the thing he wants done relate to his concern with the methods of the person who does it?
6. 5:1-31. How is the Song's description of the same events different from the historical account in chapter 4?

7. Choose application questions for discussion:

a) Do you have a Judges 5 perspective on what is happening in your life, or only a Judges 4 perspective? How could Deborah's perspective on some recent events help you?

b) Is God calling you, like Barak, to do something for which you won't get much credit? How can you respond in faith?

c) Can you pray like Jesus does for your enemies, or only like Deborah?