

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sermon by Ray Reynolds

YOU BE THE JUDGE: A SERIES ON THE BOOK OF JUDGES

Lesson Four = When Men Won't, Women Will

Judges 4:4-5:31

Introduction: Leaders can come in all shapes and sizes and even sexes! In our last lesson we noted that the Israelites needed good leaders. God didn't care if they were related to great leaders, were left handed or right handed, or if they were as awkward as the day is long. God demanded leadership. When Barak thought God was asking to much of him he forfeited a great honor. God rose up a prophetess to lead the people of God. Let's study what she did

Discussion:

I. Israel's Character (4:1-3)

- A. Their defiance (v.1)
- B. Their defeat (v.2)
- C. Their depression (v.3)

II. Deborah's Calling (4:4-7, 5:7, 12-15)

- A. Her role (4:4-5)
- B. Her revelation (4:6-7)
- C. Her reliability (5:7)
- D. Her respect (5:12-15)

III. Barak's Contribution (4:8-10, 12-16)

- A. His stress (4:8-9)
- B. His scheme (4:10, 5:14-18)
- C. His success (4:12-16, 5:19-21)

IV. Jael's Conquest (4:11, 17-22)

- A. Sisera flees (4:17)
- B. Sisera fooled (4:18-20, 5:24-25)
- C. Sisera falls (4:21-22, 5:26-30)

Conclusion: When God calls us He enables us to do great work. When we doubt God it is proof that we do not believe God. A lack of faith will lead to a lack of success. It is awesome that God used these women to deliver Israel. Thank God for good Christian women that will lead when the men have no spiritual backbone to provide leadership. If another woman had rose to the occasion we might not see the silence of 40 more years after Deborah (5:31). What man would take the challenge after Deborah? What happens next? We will see . . .