

Not so LITTLE WOMEN



Week 10: DEBORAH Today's Verses:

JUDGES 4
JUDGES 5:2
JUDGES 5:9
JUDGES 5:23
MATTHEW 16:24
JUDGES 5:4-6
JUDGES 5:24
JUDGES 5:31

Read: JUDGES 5

Ask/Discuss:

- What did you learn about God in this passage/message?
- What did you learn about yourself/humanity in this passage/message?
- How can we better reflect Jesus together as we live in diverse community?
- How do you feel led to foster healthy, Gospel-centered community this week?

Sermon Recap: DEBORAH

Deborah was the only female judge in the Old Testament book of Judges. Her story is the dream we should have for all the children at Element: that they would grow up to know God, walk with God, lead others to know God, and to speak honestly and truthfully.

The story of Deborah involves a battle and an evil tyrant; these stories are far from glorifying violence, yet show that God will one day restore justice. Ultimately, in Jesus, the cross ushers in a different type of world where we see:

1. All wrongs will be righted.
2. All the wrongs that we committed were put on Jesus.

There are only two ways to live: with ourselves as our Savior, or with our trust in Jesus to save us.

What we learn from Deborah:

1. **When the leaders lead, the people praise the Lord.** *Judges 5:2*
"That the leaders took the lead in Israel, that the people offered themselves willingly, bless the Lord!"

G.K. Chesterton, in reference to our commitments and following Jesus, writes, *"All around us is the city of small sins, abounding in backward ways and retreats, but surely, sooner or later, the towering flame will rise from the harbor announcing that the reign of the cowards is over, and man is burning his ships."* The world is waiting for people to stand up and lead in a way that holds to truth even in the face of overwhelming odds.

2. **God is not a fan of spectating.** *Judges 5:23* *Curse Meroz, says the angel of the Lord, curse its inhabitants thoroughly, because they did not come to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty.*

This doesn't say they did anything "bad"; they just did nothing. God has given each of us time, treasure, and certain things that we are good at in order to build up and grow the family of God.

3. **God wants simple obedience from us.**

There is a recurring theme in Judges where God brings down tyrants with the weakest of instruments. God doesn't need us to do the miracle; He will do it, but we must trust Him enough to follow and obey Him.

4. **God will one day right every wrong.**

In Christ, God pays for our sins. In Him, oppression will end and justice will be restored. God has always been, and will continue to be, faithful.