

Old Testament Characters: Deborah
Judges 4:1-7
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what we can learn from the judge Deborah.

- Intro:
1. When one thinks of Deborah we sometimes think of her as simply one of the judges.
 2. She was a judge that reminded people to obey God.

I. Deborah the necessary Judge.

- A. The people cried out to God. (**Judges 4:3**)
 1. The people cry out to God for aide.
 2. We find that Deborah would provide the answer.
- B. The period of the judges (**Judges 4:4-5**)
 1. This was a time when God set up a man to judge the people of Israel.
 2. However, during this period God used Deborah to judge the people.
 - a. The Bible says she was a judge, this does not mean she was a proclaimer of God's word.

II. Barak & Deborah

- A. Deborah's wisdom
 1. Deborah advised Barak to remember the commands of God (**Judges 4:6-7**).
 2. Her wisdom was the same we would give anyone today, remember what God said and do it! (**Judges 4:6a**)
- B. Barak had no courage.
 1. He would only go if Deborah came with him. (**Judges 4:8**)
 - a. His reply showed a lack of courage & a lack of obedience to God's commands.
 2. Deborah then reminds Barak that he will have no glory from the battle. (**Judges 4:9a**)
 3. She reminds him that God has sold Sisera into the hands of a woman (Jael, **Judges 4:21**).

III. Lessons for us today.

- A. There is always wisdom in obeying God's commands.
 1. Deborah reminded Barak of this at the beginning.
 2. Such advice was one reason why she was judging Israel.
 - a. She gave godly advice and emphasized obedience to God's commands (**Judges 4:6a**).
- B. Deborah's role does not qualify female leadership in the church today.
 1. The O.T. is not our authority for what is done in the church today.
 2. Though Deborah functioned as a judge, it is not equal to a role a preacher today.
 - a. Israel came to her for judgment **NOT** for the proclamation of God's word. (**Judges 4:5; 5:7**)

Application & Conclusion:

1. Deborah was a judge because she was a godly woman.
 - a. Some say she was a judge because no men were worthy to be a judge.
 - b. Whatever the reason, she was a judge that emphasized follow God and remember His commands.
2. We would be wise to heed her simple but important reminder.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9