

Small Group Leaders' Guide | Sermon Questions, July 6, 2014

Summer Bible Study: Barak and Deborah (Judges 4:1-24)

Please read Judges 4:1-24

1. During Q&A last week we talked about how an OT judge was usually someone who was a judge of foreign affairs (which typically meant they were military leaders who delivered Israel from an enemy.) In verse 4 Deborah is described as leading (could also be translated judging.) Was she judging foreign affairs or was she judging over disputes among Israelites?
2. Almost every person in the book of Judges has something questionable about their character. Do you see anything questionable about Deborah's character?

Note to Leader: There does not appear to be a single hint of bad character in Deborah. This does not mean she was perfect. However, many say that she is the most righteous person in the book of Judges.

3. What is your opinion of Barak's response to God's message in verse 6-8?
4. Barak obeys "in part." He comes off as less than faithful but not completely faithless. Does God still use Barak?
5. What are the consequences of Barak's less-than-wholehearted faithfulness?
6. Can you think back to a decision you made where you obeyed partially? How did it go?
7. Travis mentioned the peace that Israel after Israel was delivered from Jabin the Canaanite king. Travis noted that Jesus provides an eternal peace. Are you experiencing the peace of Christ today? If not, what do you need to surrender to Jesus so that he can lead you into his peace?

Closing Action: Jesus wants to lead every decision and conversation in our lives. If you are willing, please confess quietly in prayer to God that you need Him to lead your life. Surrender your whole life to Him. Ask Him to lead.