

Introduction:

- *"Very well," she replied, "I will go with you. But you will receive no honor in this venture, for the Lord's victory over Sisera will be at the hands of a woman." So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh.*" (Judges 4:9, NLT) *"But Jael the wife of Heber took a tent peg, and took a hammer in her hand. Then she went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple until it went down into the ground while he was lying fast asleep from weariness. So he died."* (Judges 4:21, ESV) *"So may all your enemies perish, O Lord! But your friends be like the sun as he rises in his might." And the land had rest for forty years.*" (Judges 5:31, ESV)
- A friend of mine observed after reading this passage... *"this is why I never sleep in a tent with a woman who has a mallet and a tent peg... just in case"*
- Happy Mothers Day!

I. Breaking The Cycle

- A. When reading the Bible it seems apparent that life moves in cycles. And as believers we need to be aware of the cycles so that we are in the right place at the right time and not caught off guard. A common pattern we see in the Bible is the impact that the fall of man has had on humanity. The pattern goes something like this:
1. God blesses and everything is going good.
 2. As things go good man begins to forget about God and his worship wanes. *"For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him,"* Romans 1:21 As he forgets God his strength wanes and his authority lessens.
 3. As man forgets about God, God turns them over to their own devices. *"So the Lord sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan..."* (Jdg 4:2) NKJV Romans, *"For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, ...God gave them up to their passions...God gave them over to a reprobate mind,"* (Romans 1:21-24, ESV)
 4. Life becomes miserable and man begins to repent and cry out to God. *"People don't change until the pain of not changing becomes greater than the pain of change itself."*
 5. God delivers!
- B. Not only does man have a pattern but God too has a pattern when man begins to forget him.
1. God moves in grace desiring to connect with man, the man who is pulling away.
 2. 4:2 God turns them over to their enemy. Man then cries out in pain under pressure.

3. God sends a promise. Waits for man to repent, pick up the promise and act in faith.
 4. God fulfills His promise. Man rejoice in God!
 5. Man sees God defeat His enemies.
- C. Life is full of cycles and women are most familiar with that. But, virtuous warlike women, must recognize the cycles in their family, husband, market place in order to be in position to respond to God.
1. Notice from our text that God works through people both ways.
 - a) He turns those who are drifting away over to their enemies (people). Jabin, Sisera
 - b) He works deliverance through people as well. Deborah, Jael, and Barak.

II. God Raises Up Deliverers

- A. Anytime God wants to do something in the earth He raises up a person to accomplish His desire. (I believe that God wants to do lots of things!) The key is to be available to God to do His work. God is no respecter of persons He is looking for nobody's, who are somebody's because they live going after God's heart. IE. Everyone in the Bible who was a somebody started out as a nobody. Ladies you may feel like a nobody, but if you keep your heart hungry for God you will be a somebody in most anybody life. But especially in your families life. God raises up deliverers because people get themselves in bondage and messes that they cant get out of. Lets look at our deliverers this morning:
1. Deborah - her name means honey bee. She is raised up as a judge (King) over Israel, in the likes of Moses and Samuel. She is prophet, (Like Miriam, Hulda, Isaiah's wife, Ana, Philips 4 daughters) judge, and the Leader of Israel. This woman was a nobody but became somebody because her heart stayed true to God when all Israel was backsliding! This woman was a nobody but became somebody because she learned to hear the voice of God for herself and for others!
 - a) Everything came to a standstill in Israel. You couldn't safely travel the major roads. Village life had ceased as people hid from the oppressive Canaanites.
 - b) Deborah arose! ...a mother in Israel! Rise up mothers! Mother is comforter, teacher, discipliner.
 2. Jael - her name means mountain goat. Strong, agile, beautiful, majestic. She is chosen by God to take out the general of the Canaanite army. **She had a tent peg ministry!** God chose a man but the man lacked faith. Some of you are married to men who lack faith. That does not mean you stop your faith, or your kingdom activity. Ladies don't be afraid to let God honor you when a man lacks faith to do the job God had for Him. This woman was a nobody but became somebody, because she aligned herself with the Kingdom of God and God's purposes.

Things happen when you align yourself with God. Do not underestimate the power of Kingdom alignment in your life.

- a) Listen to this: *“Most blessed among women is Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite. May she be blessed above all women who live in tents.”* (Judges 5:24, NLT) This is so powerful that Luke records Elizabeths words to Mary in the Luke 1:42.
 - b) God puts Jael and Mary under the same heading! ***The words, “Blessed art thou among women,”* are spoken in Scripture to only one other woman besides Jael. The angel Gabriel said them to the virgin Mary (Luke 1:28). Certainly Gabriel knew the original setting of the words, as did the evangelist Luke when he recorded them. Both wanted God’s people to see the similarity between Jael and Mary.
3. Barak - his name means lightning. But Barak became ‘bait’ when he doubted God’s promise. Judges 4:7 God uses Barak to lure Sisera and his 900 iron chariots out. Barak was a nobody but became somebody when Deborah called him out to lead a weak army of Israel into battle.
- a) This man was a nobody but became somebody, when he aligned himself with the Word of the Lord.
 - b) **His problem was...his faith was in the prophetess and not the Promise of God.** It was the Lord who promised to give Sisera into his hand, not the Prophetess. The power was in the Word of the Lord not in the prophetess. Barak's refusal to go showed his faith was in Deborah and not in God. He could have had Sisera himself but lost the chance by a semi-misplaced faith.
- B. The virtuous qualities of warlike women.
1. They live close to God. How do we know? Deborah in a time of national crises when people were leaving God drew near to God and listened to his voice. Jael we know is close to God because the Words spoken over Mary were nearly the same spoken over Jael.
 2. They trust in the strength of their God. (They have faith) *“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.”* (Psalm 20:7, ESV) Deborah saw Sisera’s 900 iron chariots, and huge undefeated army. But she SAW something bigger... a meager small army with God! Deborah knew that if God be for you no one can stand against you. Jael fearlessly invited Sisera into her tent and prepared to introduce him to his maker.
 3. They are not weak but courageous. Ladies men don’t want to be married to weak women. Guys, do we want women to be *weak*? And the answer must forever be, on the basis of Scripture, “May it never be!” Strong women are as vital as strong men to God’s purpose in the church. Thank God Jael wasn’t weak and submissive

and respectful toward this friend of her wayward husband. Strong women reject the request of evil men. God delights in strong women.

4. Both valued God's kingdom more than their own lives.
5. Both lived outside the 'religious box'. They were powerful women in a man's world. A woman was not supposed to be judge. Well guess what? IF God can't find a man he will raise up a woman. Jael wasn't even Jewish. She was Kenite. Her husband was a descendent of Moses brother in law. God uses the willing not the religious! Women used by God: Ruth-the great grandmother of David, Esther - Queen of Babylon, Mary - mother of Jesus, Mary Magdella - first preacher of the resurrection, Priscilla...list goes on.
6. Both obeyed the original mandate from the garden: subdue and take dominion!
7. Both were world changers not knowing the extent of their generational reach!

III. Building a Tent Peg Ministry

- A. *"But Jael the wife of Heber took a tent peg, and took a hammer in her hand. Then she went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple until it went down into the ground while he was lying fast asleep from weariness. So he died."* (Judges 4:21, ESV)
- B. Tent pegs speak of stability and structure. If you put up a tent and you do not have tent pegs it will blow away under the stress of storms. Judges 5:24 Jael was a tent dweller so she knew very well the importance of tent pegs. They bring stability and structure especially in the storms of life. Jael knew that the death of Sisera would bring stability and structure back to Israel. The road could be traveled again and village life return to normal.
 1. *"...for **the Lord of hosts cares for his flock**, the house of Judah, and will make them like his majestic steed in battle. From him shall come the cornerstone, from him the tent peg, from him the battle bow, from him every ruler—all of them together." (Zechariah 10:3-4, ESV) When the righteous rule the city rejoices. Prov 11:10*
 2. Tent pegs also speak of strength and holding power! *"And now for a little while grace has been shown from the Lord our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and **to give us a peg in His holy place**, that our God may enlighten our eyes and give us a measure of revival in our bondage."* (Ezra 9:8, NKJV)
 - a) *"We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, **20** where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf..." (Heb 6:19-20 ESV).*
 - b) That is true holding power! A tent peg in the Holy Place!
- C. Eight Mentalities of Tent Peg Minister
 1. Quality of vision. Focus of looking ahead. Asking, "what shall I be?" Not looking back but ahead.
 2. Hunger for the will of God. Ps 24:6 Finish well

3. Seeking God daily. The Word is your road map. The GPS that talks to you.
4. Positions self wisely. Position determines the nature of your operation. Ie. Self pity vs. faith. Defeat vs. Victorious.
5. Knows God must always remain your source. You lose influence if you lose relationship with Him.
6. Hungers for change.
7. Understands the reality that this is a spiritual war.
8. Is a serious, intercessory prayer warrior.

Conclusion:

- Who is the hero of Judges 4 and 5? It is the Lord! 4:2; 4:14,15; 4:23
- Moms you are raising nation changers that reach into the future don't ever forget that.
- Ladies start your tent peg ministry today. Bring stability, structure, and strength into all your relationship and in all you do.
- God is with you!

Freebee....

Life Lessons

- God can use anyone to accomplish the work that needs to be done.
- No one would have expected Deborah to be the chosen instrument of the work of God. God has a way of choosing people that may seem less than great candidates for service to accomplish great victory. Why does God do this? When God brings victory from an unlikely source, he gains the credit and the glory.
- God makes use of unexpected people to accomplish unexpected tasks.
- God can do incredible things through the least likely people and the most incredible events in the most unlikely places. God is so good, He uses frail and faulty people to accomplish his divine work.