

--We are studying the entire book of JUDGES!

TODAY:

WEEK 4 – STIR IT UP

We have seen 3 judges: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar

God has continued to redeem a Kingless Kingdom

He loves His people and when the people cry out to Him, He answers

They had 8 years of bondage, then 40 years of peace... **God used OTHNIEL**

They then had 18 years of bondage, and now 80 years of peace...**God used EHUD**

THEN they rebelled again and **God used SHAMGAR**

Judges 4:1-24 (NLT)

1 After Ehud's death, the Israelites again did evil in the Lord's sight. 2 So the Lord turned them over to King Jabin of Hazor, a Canaanite king. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-haggoyim. 3 Sisera, who had 900 iron chariots, ruthlessly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years. Then the people of Israel cried out to the Lord for help.

HERE WE GO AGAIN, as the people rebel...and after 20 years of oppression with a CANAANITE King – they cry out to God

What I find interesting is verse 2- **THE LORD HANDED THEM OVER to King Jabin**...God loved them WAY too much to let them go their own way

AND THERE MAY BE TIMES when we wish God would just leave us alone and let us do our own thing without interruption...BUT GOD LOVES you too much to not deal with you in whatever way He sees fit –

and sometimes it's "SON/DAUGHTER you are walking way too much in your rebellion, and if you keep walking it will lead to your destruction; so I will hand you over/allow you to enter in to a state of slavery to an oppressor"

AND IN THAT STATE OF OPPRESSION – you will realize you were NEVER created to operate without me – you cant find peace without me, you cant find a good life without me – YOU NEED ME

GOD – in His goodness, knows that the BEST way for you to make that decision; to TURN TO HIM; is to endure the oppression that YOU brought upon yourself to put you in a posture of "I CANT DO THIS ANYMORE ON MY OWN ACCORD"

John 15:5 (NLT)

5 "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

And it may take 8 years of bondage, or 40 years of bondage, or 20 years of bondage, but GOD says "NOT WITHOUT ME"

WELL I know a lot of people who are DOING a lot and they are successful and have all these things and God is like 'BUT YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY WRESTLE WITH and YOU DON'T KNOW what I know about them"

I HAD plans for them; and they sold their souls for cars and houses

And many of them are weary and tired because NOTHING can sustain them so they work themselves to death trying to EARN and GAIN

THEY GOT stuff; but apart from me; they didn't do a thing with their lives... And they are EMPTY

SO – God will HAND you over, TAKE HIS HAND off, and wait 'CRY OUT TO ME"

And that is exactly what the people did after 20 years of oppression...

Judges 4:4-5 (NLT)

4 Deborah, the wife of Lappidoth, was a prophet who was judging Israel at that time. 5 She would sit under the Palm of Deborah, between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites would go to her for judgment.

There are many who try to argue that WOMEN can not be any sort of headship in authority in the church – but the ISSUE was never about gender

The ISSUE has always been about headship, accountability, and authority

She was a woman submitted to and honoring her husband, not shaming him for having no governmental authority even though SHE was walking in a PROPHETIC mantle – and because she honored HER husband who was not walking in a government position – OUT OF that ORDER, God said 'I'll use this woman who understands what reverence and submission and order is all about"

JUST like a MAN can not be used unless HE is under the headship of God

WELL, Deborah would JUDGE the people of Israel - God was using her to point out to the people what they needed to understand about their position as a rebellious people...

DO YOU REALIE how desperate the people must have been?

MEN were submitting to a woman in a day where it was UNHEARD OF

CAUSE at this point – they needed GOD and they were in a position where God could do whatever HE wanted and HOWEVER He wanted with WHOEVER He wanted – and they were willing to say YES

Judges 4:6-7 (NLT)

6 One day she sent for Barak son of Abinoam, who lived in Kedesh in the land of Naphtali. She said to him, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, commands you: Call out 10,000 warriors from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun at Mount Tabor. 7 And I will call out Sisera, commander of Jabin's army, along with his chariots and warriors, to the Kishon River. There I will give you victory over him."

Now, in the NKJV of the bible it says Deborah says 'HAS NOT the Lord commanded?"

DEBORAH was asking a question of confirmation.....

"BARAK – hasn't God spoken to you and said to all out 10,000 warriors and if you would God would arrange the enemy to meet you to be destroyed?"

WHAT was Deborah's role...JUDGING – SHAPHAT – putting people in to rightful position....Deborah's role was to find the one GOD needed to place in authority..]

DEBORAH never believed she was the one God called to deliver Israel all alone

SHE KNEW God called HER to call out the ONE who would do much of the work

AND MANY prophets of today want the stage and want the credit and need to realize that their words were NEVER meant to be words to be marveled at, rather words to help position those to CARRY THE DOING....

WE spend more time speaking of END TIMES than we do POSITIIONG people to REDEEM kingless kingdoms...

AND WITH THAT HONOR – watch..

Judges 4:8 (NLT)

8 Barak told her, "I will go, but only if you go with me."

BARAK had little faith to go by himself EVEN Though GOD called him to do it
And God used a JUDGE – someone to put BARAK in to his rightful position to
REDEEM a culture because HE wouldn't walk where God told him to..

BARAK felt like "Deborah – I trust in your relationship with God more than my own
and I need you to come with me so I can be inspired and kept on track by the
PRESENCE you carry"

Judges 4:9-10 (NLT)

9 "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. 10 At Kedesh, Barak called together the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali, and 10,000 warriors went up with him. Deborah also went with him.

YOU SURE? You gonna let a woman get credit?

LOOK at her faith – Deborah was like "ILL GO"

Barak was like "CAN YOU GO WITH ME"

But let's read this passage in Hebrews 11

Hebrews 11:32-34 (NLT)

32 How much more do I need to say? It would take too long to recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets. 33 By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight.

BARAK got the credit as a man of great FAITH

When his faith was tested and proved AFTER putting his faith in Deborah's influence with God

BUT WHAT IS THE FUNCTION OF A PROPHET

They are the mouthpiece of God...and...watch..

1 Corinthians 14:3 (NLT)

3 But one who prophesies strengthens others, encourages them, and comforts them.

WHAT DID BARAK NEED to accomplish the PLAN God had for him to go conquer and win the victory over Sisera who had 900 iron chariots..

He needed to be encouraged in his call, strengthened in his faith and comforted by the level of presence Deborah walked in

AND DEBORAH understood her place TO JUDGE through her prophetic gift
By strengthening, encouraging, and comforting after deliver the message

REDEMPTION of kingless kingdoms can NOT be done without the HONORING of each other's abilities and gifts....

REDEMPTION of kingless kingdoms can NOT be done without the ENCOURAGING of one another...

Hebrews 10:24-25 (TPT)

24 Discover creative ways to encourage others and to motivate them toward acts of compassion, doing beautiful works as expressions of love. **25** This is not the time to pull away and neglect meeting together, as some have formed the habit of doing, because we need each other! In fact, we should come together even more frequently, eager to encourage and urge each other onward as we anticipate that day dawning.

- *Encourage each other
- *motivate toward acts and expressions
- *come together MORE, eager to encourage

2 Timothy 1:6-7 (TPT)

6 I'm writing to encourage you to fan into a flame and rekindle the fire of the spiritual gift God imparted to you when I laid my hands upon you. **7** For God will never give you the spirit of fear, but the Holy Spirit who gives you mighty power, love, and self-control.

Paul; writes to Timothy – to STIR UP THE GIFT in him

And yet when someone comes to you and tries to stir it up we say
"why you judging me" "im doing what I can"

BUT JUST LIKE DEBORAH - there is a NECSSAARY judging – it's called
POSITONING for God to work...because JESUS bought your permission to be there

SO... Barak says I'll go if you go

And Deborah goes with BARACK to Kedesh, and gets 10,000 warriors

JUST LIKE God told him once, and reminded him again through Deborah

AND ALL THEY ARE DOING – is walking out in FAITH...

They had essentially NO weapons to fight against a technologically advanced army of 900 iron chariots

And the place God called them to go to – was a plain..

Where CHARIOTS had the advantage....

Encouraging and strengthening and stirring up gifts..

YOU ALSO STIR UP FAITH...

AND THEY HAD TO HAVE FAITH – to walk in to this battle

AND A LOT OF us say we believe....but when God calls you to a task, your faith all of a sudden disappears and is limited to a belief and NOT an action...

James 2:24 (TPT)

24 So now it's clear that a person is seen as righteous in God's eyes not merely by faith alone, but by his works.

Your works do not earn anything

But they prove where you are at in your embrace of your identity and righteousness

"WELL I DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING"

WELL, FAITH ALONE aint gonna get you anywhere – you gotta do somethign

SO FAITH is stirred up, and the 10,000 warriors with an EXTREME disadvantage are walking by faith...all because, Deborah stirred it up....

Judges 4:11-13 (NLT)

11 Now Heber the Kenite, a descendant of Moses' brother-in-law Hobab, had moved away from the other members of his tribe and pitched his tent by the oak of Zaanannim near Kedesh. **12** When Sisera was told that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, **13** he called for all 900 of his iron chariots and all of his warriors, and they marched from Harosheth-haggoyim to the Kishon River.

THE ARMIES of Sisera were moving forward....

And Israel, under the direction of Barak and Deborah, were at a disadvantage

REMEMBER THIS - they are RIGHT NEXT to descendant of Moses' brother in law....

Judges 4:14 (NLT)

14 Then Deborah said to Barak, "Get ready! This is the day the Lord will give you victory over Sisera, for the Lord is marching ahead of you." So Barak led his 10,000 warriors down the slopes of Mount Tabor into battle.

SEE WHAT DEBORAH DID –

WHEN THEY ENEMY WAS IN PLAIN SIGHT – encouragement

PUSH FORWARD – a reminder of "THE LORD WILL GIVE YOU VICTORY"

Judges 4:15-16 (NLT)

15 When Barak attacked, the Lord threw Sisera and all his chariots and warriors into a panic. Sisera leaped down from his chariot and escaped on foot. **16** Then Barak chased the chariots and the enemy army all the way to Harosheth-haggoyim, killing all of Sisera's warriors. Not a single one was left alive.

BARAK didn't prepare to be attacked by the enemy

THEY MOVED FORWARD before the enemy had a chance to act

And GOD THREW them in to panic

THEY HAD NO REASON to panic – they had the upperhand...

1 Corinthians 1:27-29 (NLT)

27 Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. **28** God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. **29** As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God.

IT WAS CONSIDERED A STUPID MOVE – but because BARACK WAS STIRRED UP

He has STUPID faith...and the only thing they could devote the victory to was GOD

AND IT WASN'T a PARTIAL victory – not a single one was left alive...

NOW I want to point out something – WHY did they have the victory...look back at verse 14..

Judges 4:14 (NLT)

14 Then Deborah said to Barak, "Get ready! This is the day the Lord will give you victory over Sisera, for the Lord is marching ahead of you." So Barak led his 10,000 warriors down the slopes of Mount Tabor into battle.

THE LORD WENT AHEAD OF THEM

God was already moving in the battle ground and making a way

HE WILL NEVER call you to a place He has not been to

AND IF YOU will walk by faith, BE ASSURED – he will go ahead of you and take care of the things that make you want to WAIT and HOLD BACK...

HE WILL CONFUSE and CAUSE PANIC and BREAK DOWN things that make you think "I DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES"

AND GOD SAYS " I KNOW YOU DON'T, so let your weak places be your strongest because THAT is where I will act on your behalf"

AND MANY people are TOO SCARED to move forward in AMERICA

And the church is called to STIR A THING UP....

I wonder – what you are called to STIR UP

I wonder – what do you need to be STIRRED UP FOR?

HOW are we growing in unity when the world says "it is not safe to come together"

God says "they are right...but if I say to come together, have the faith that I will go before you and cause Covid to RUN as you MOVE forward"

David's song:

1 Chronicles 16:11-15 (NLT)

11 Search for the Lord and for his strength; continually seek him. 12 Remember the wonders he has performed, his miracles, and the rulings he has given, 13 you children of his servant Israel, you descendants of Jacob, his chosen ones. 14 He is the Lord our God. His justice is seen throughout the land. 15 Remember his covenant forever—the commitment he made to a thousand generations.

STIR THAT SONG UP among us – Remember what He did, Remember who we are, Remember what He has promised to do!!!

NOW....let's read verses 15-16 again..

Judges 4:15-16 (NLT)

15 When Barak attacked, the Lord threw Sisera and all his chariots and warriors into a panic. Sisera leaped down from his chariot and escaped on foot. **16** Then Barak chased the chariots and the enemy army all the way to Harosheth-haggoyim, killing all of Sisera's warriors. Not a single one was left alive

SISERA escaped...

NOW HEBREWS talked about HOW GREAT barack was and his faith...

BUT BARACK didn't get all the glory...

Remember what Deborah said in verse 9?

Judges 4:9- (NLT)

9 "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.

NOW YOU WOULD THINK - she was talking about herself

BUT SHE DIDN'T SAY...Deborah...she said – A WOMAN

REMEMBER where the battle was next to?

Heber, descendant of Moses' brother in law.....

Judges 4:17 (NLT)

17 Meanwhile, Sisera ran to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, because Heber's family was on friendly terms with King Jabin of Hazor.

Women had tents separate from their husbands – and it was OUT OF ORDER for a man to go in to the tent of a man's wife...

Deborah was operating IN ORDER... (submitted to husband, God, Barack)

Sisera – BREAKING PROTOCOL for his own safety and pleasure..

DO NOT break God's order...

1 Cor 14 tells us – DO ALL THINGS IN ORDER, so there is NO CONFUSION and PEACE WILL FLOW –

IF YOU DON'T have peace – BETTER check the order...

Judges 4:18-20 (NLT)

18 Jael went out to meet Sisera and said to him, "Come into my tent, sir. Come in. Don't be afraid." So he went into her tent, and she covered him with a blanket.

19 "Please give me some water," he said. "I'm thirsty." So she gave him some milk from a leather bag and covered him again. 20 "Stand at the door of the tent," he told her. "If anybody comes and asks you if there is anyone here, say no."

IT SEEMED SAFE....but it was OUT OF ORDER.....

THERE WAS A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY...

And many of us live in a FALSE sense of security in the houses WE have built that are COMPLETELY out of order and we are SURPRISED when they fall....

WHY MILK instead of water?? FULL BELLY makes you exhausted and he felt secure in receiving more than he asked – THE ENEMY loves to give you what you want to keep you out of order!

Judges 4:21-22 (NLT)

21 But when Sisera fell asleep from exhaustion, Jael quietly crept up to him with a hammer and tent peg in her hand. Then she drove the tent peg through his temple and into the ground, and so he died. 22 When Barak came looking for Sisera, Jael went out to meet him. She said, "Come, and I will show you the man you are looking for." So he followed her into the tent and found Sisera lying there dead, with the tent peg through his temple.

THE ENEMY WAS SLAIN... and the VICTORY was in the hands of a woman..

AND WHEN BARACK SAW THAT...watch...

Judges 4:23-24 (NLT)

23 So on that day Israel saw God defeat Jabin, the Canaanite king. 24 And from that time on Israel became stronger and stronger against King Jabin until they finally destroyed him.

The defeat of SISERA was step one...and they became stronger and stronger until they destroyed KING JABIN....

WATCHING THE DEFEAT of Sisera, built FAITH in BARACK to continue...

IF WE WOULD REMEMBER what JESUS did and SLAYED the enemy through his death and resurrection – IT SHOULD BUILD YOUR FAITH to conquer ANYTHING that comes your way...

SO LET'S STIR THAT UP, AND REMIND OURSELVES the victory that is in JESUS
And THAT will lead us to grow STRONGER and STRONGER in our FAITH and in our DOING with that faith!

AND THE NEXT CHAPTER – Deborah and Barak sing a song....

Judges 5:1-31(NLT)

1 On that day Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang this song: 2 "Israel's leaders took charge, and the people gladly followed. Praise the Lord! 3 "Listen, you kings! Pay attention, you mighty rulers! For I will sing to the Lord. I will make music to the Lord, the God of Israel. 4 "Lord, when you set out from Seir and marched across the fields of Edom, the earth trembled, and the cloudy skies poured down rain. 5 The mountains quaked in the presence of the Lord, the God of Mount Sinai— in the presence of the Lord, the God of Israel. 6 "In the days of Shamgar son of Anath, and in the days of Jael, people avoided the main roads, and travelers stayed on winding pathways. 7 There were few people left in the villages of Israel—until Deborah arose as a mother for Israel. 8 When Israel chose new gods, war erupted at the city gates. Yet not a shield or spear could be seen among forty thousand warriors in Israel! 9 My heart is with the commanders of Israel, with those who volunteered for war. Praise the Lord! 10 "Consider this, you who ride on fine donkeys, you who sit on fancy saddle blankets, and you who walk along the road. 11 Listen to the village musicians gathered at the watering holes. They recount the righteous victories of the Lord and the victories of his villagers in Israel. Then the people of the Lord marched down to the city gates. 12 "Wake up, Deborah, wake up! Wake up, wake up, and sing a song! Arise, Barak! Lead your captives away, son of Abinoam! 13 "Down from Tabor marched the few against the nobles. The people of the Lord marched down against mighty warriors. 14 They came down from Ephraim—a land that once belonged to the Amalekites; they followed you, Benjamin, with your troops. From Makir the commanders marched down; from Zebulun came those who carry a commander's staff. 15 The princes of Issachar were with Deborah and Barak. They followed Barak, rushing into the valley. But in the

tribe of Reuben there was great indecision. **16** Why did you sit at home among the sheepfolds— to hear the shepherds whistle for their flocks? Yes, in the tribe of Reuben there was great indecision. **17** Gilead remained east of the Jordan. And why did Dan stay home? Asher sat unmoved at the seashore, remaining in his harbors. **18** But Zebulun risked his life, as did Naphtali, on the heights of the battlefield. **19** "The kings of Canaan came and fought, at Taanach near Megiddo's springs, but they carried off no silver treasures. **20** The stars fought from heaven. The stars in their orbits fought against Sisera. **21** The Kishon River swept them away— that ancient torrent, the Kishon. March on with courage, my soul! **22** Then the horses' hooves hammered the ground, the galloping, galloping of Sisera's mighty steeds. **23** 'Let the people of Meroz be cursed,' said the angel of the Lord. 'Let them be utterly cursed, because they did not come to help the Lord— to help the Lord against the mighty warriors.' **24** "Most blessed among women is Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite. May she be blessed above all women who live in tents. **25** Sisera asked for water, and she gave him milk. In a bowl fit for nobles, she brought him yogurt. **26** Then with her left hand she reached for a tent peg, and with her right hand for the workman's hammer. She struck Sisera with the hammer, crushing his head. With a shattering blow, she pierced his temples. **27** He sank, he fell, he lay still at her feet. And where he sank, there he died. **28** "From the window Sisera's mother looked out. Through the window she watched for his return, saying, 'Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why don't we hear the sound of chariot wheels?' **29** "Her wise women answer, and she repeats these words to herself: **30** 'They must be dividing the captured plunder— with a woman or two for every man. There will be colorful robes for Sisera, and colorful, embroidered robes for me. Yes, the plunder will include colorful robes embroidered on both sides.' **31** "Lord, may all your enemies die like Sisera! But may those who love you rise like the sun in all its power!" Then there was peace in the land for forty years.

PEACE for another 40 years...

WHEN YOU STIR UP THAT THING in people

And you are moving in faith.....

THE AMOUNT OF ENEMIES you gain defies you just as much as who you friends are
Because you are standing for GOD and nothing else

SO LET's stir it up so we are known as people of FAITH who LOVE God

TONIGHT – Who needs to be stirred? Strengthened, comforted, encouraged – come up here tonight...AMEN