



JUDGES 4 & 5

**UNCOMMON, UNLIKELY AND  
UNRECOGNIZED HEROES**

SP LAWRENCE CHUA 25 & 26 NOVEMBER 2017

## *Judges 4 and 5*

*"When Ehud was dead, the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD. <sup>2</sup> So the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who dwelt in Harosheth Hagoyim. <sup>3</sup> And the children of Israel cried out to the LORD; for Jabin had nine hundred chariots of iron, and for twenty*

*years he had harshly oppressed the children of Israel. <sup>4</sup> Now **Deborah, a prophetess**, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time." <sup>5</sup> And she would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim. And the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.*

*<sup>6</sup> Then she **sent and called for Barak** the son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, **and said to him**, "Has not the LORD God of Israel commanded, 'Go and deploy troops at Mount Tabor; **take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun;** <sup>7</sup> and against you I will deploy Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude at the River Kishon; and I will deliver him into your hand'?"*

*"<sup>8</sup> And Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!" <sup>9</sup> So she said, "I will surely go with you; nevertheless there will be no glory for you in the journey you are taking, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh. <sup>10</sup> And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; he went up with ten thousand men under his command, and Deborah went up with him . . .*

*<sup>14</sup> Then Deborah said to Barak, "Up! For this is the day in which the Lord has delivered Sisera into your hand. Has not the Lord gone out before you?" Barak went down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand men following him." <sup>15</sup> And the Lord routed Sisera and all his chariots and all His army with the edge of the sword before Barak; and Sisera alighted from his chariot and fled away on foot.*

***16 But Barak pursued the chariots and the army as far as Harosheth Hagoyim, and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; not a man was left. 17 However, Sisera had fled away on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite; for there was peace between Jabin king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite. 18 And Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said to him, "Turn aside, my lord, turn aside to me; do not fear."***

***And when he had turned aside with her into the tent, she covered him with a blanket." 19 Then he said to her, "Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty." So she opened a jug of milk, gave him a drink, and covered him. 20 And he said to her, "Stand at the door of the tent, and if any man comes and inquires of you, and says, 'Is there any man here?' you shall say, 'No.'"***

***21** Then Jael, Heber's wife, took a tent peg and took a hammer in her hand, and went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple, and it went down into the ground; for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died. **22** And then, as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him, and said to him, "Come, I will show you the man whom you seek." And when he went into her tent, there lay Sisera, dead with the peg in his temple.*

***23** So on that day **God subdued Jabin king of Canaan in the presence of the children of Israel.** **24** And the hand of the children of Israel grew stronger and stronger against Jabin king of Canaan, until they had destroyed **Jabin king of Canaan.**"*

*Judges 4:1-24 (NKJV)*

*Judges 5 : 1-2, 6-8*

*" Then Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying: <sup>2</sup> "When leaders lead in Israel, When the people willingly offer themselves, Bless the LORD! <sup>6</sup> "In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, In the days of Jael, The highways were deserted, And the travellers walked along the byways. <sup>7</sup> Village life ceased, it ceased in Israel, Until I, Deborah, arose, Arose a mother in Israel.*

*<sup>8</sup> They chose new gods; Then there was war in the gates; Not a shield or spear was seen among forty thousand in Israel. <sup>9</sup> My heart is with the rulers of Israel Who offered themselves willingly with the people. The LORD came down for me against the mighty. And from Zebulun those who bear the recruiter's staff" . . ."*

*"18 Zebulun is a people who jeopardized their lives to the point of death, Naphtali also, on the heights of the battlefield. To the help of the Lord against the mighty . . . 24 "Most blessed among women is Jael, The wife of Heber the Kenite; Blessed is she among women in tents."*

*Judges 5 : 9, 18 & 24 (NKJV)*

## *Introduction*

### *a) People love heroes*

- 1960s we have open air cinemas
- watch the western movies
- excited and cheering was when the heroes appeared on screen to save the damsels in distress

## *Introduction*

- dreaming to be a hero one day
- I was truly an unlikely hero then!

## *Introduction*

- b) People who are my heroes**
- discovered many heroes :
  - teachers
  - J. Oswald Sanders
  - my mum and my dad
- they were unrecognized heroes



*Introduction*

c) **Heroes in your life**

- not talking about Jesus our ultimate and greatest hero
- but heroes that Jesus wants us to emulate and become

*Introduction*

\* ***Judges 5 : 18 & 23***

***"Zebulun is a people who jeopardized their lives to the point of death, Naphtali also, on the heights of the battlefield . . .***

***the help of the LORD against the mighty.***

- ***Hebrews 11 – heroes of faith***

## *Introduction*

*Hebrews 12 : 1 – 2 (NKJV)*

*“Therefore we also, since **we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses**, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and **let us run** with endurance the race that is set before us,*

## *Introduction*

*<sup>2</sup> **looking unto Jesus**, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

*Hebrews 12 : 1 – 2 (NKJV)*

## *Introduction*

- Heroes give testimony about God acting in their lives to us
- God to inspire us, teach us and become heroes of faith to others

## *Road Map*

1. The Prophetess Who Became a Judge of Israel: *Leadership*
2. The Woman in Tent Who Became a Silent Killer: *Courage*
3. The Reluctant General Who Became a Man of Faith: *Strength*

1) *The prophetess who became a Judge of Israel: **Leadership***

- Deborah the uncommon hero

1) *The prophetess who became a Judge of Israel: **Leadership***

- \* *"Now **Deborah, a prophetess**, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time.  
<sup>5</sup> And she would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim. And the children of Israel came up to her for judgment."  
(Judges 4 : 4-5)*

1) *The prophetess who became a Judge of Israel:*  
*Leadership*

- Old Testament heroes were usually men and seldom women
- patriarchal and not matriarchal

1) *The prophetess who became a Judge of Israel:*  
*Leadership*

*"<sup>15</sup> Moreover **God said** to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The LORD God of your fathers, **the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob**, has sent me to you. **This is My name forever**, and this is My memorial to all generations.'" Exodus 3:15 (NKJV)*

*Matthew 22 : 29-32 (NKJV)*

*"Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. <sup>30</sup> For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven. <sup>31</sup> But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read **what was spoken to you by God, saying,** <sup>32</sup> 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.""*

1) *The prophetess who became a Judge of Israel:  
**Leadership***

*Galatians 3 : 26–29 (NKJV)*

*"For **you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.** <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, **there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.** <sup>29</sup> And if you are Christ's, then **you are Abraham's seed, and heirs** according to the promise."*

1) *The prophetess who became a Judge of Israel:*  
*Leadership*

- facing lots of obstacles to you ever becoming a leader
- Be a Deborah
- gender are no obstacles to God raising an uncommon hero
- start by developing leadership qualities

*Judges 4 : 1-7 (NKJV)*

*" When **Ehud was dead, the children of Israel again did evil** in the sight of the LORD. <sup>2</sup> So the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who dwelt in Harosheth Hagoyim.*

*<sup>3</sup> And the children of Israel cried out to the LORD; for Jabin had nine hundred chariots of iron, and **for twenty years he had harshly oppressed the children of Israel.** <sup>4</sup> Now **Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time.**" <sup>5</sup> And she would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim. And the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.*

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*Judges 4 : 1-7 (NKJV)*



*Judges 5:1 – 2, 6 – 9 (NKJV)*

*“Then Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying: <sup>2</sup> “When leaders lead in Israel, When the people willingly offer themselves, Bless the LORD! <sup>6</sup> “In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, In the days of Jael, The highways were deserted, And the travellers walked along the byways. <sup>7</sup> Village life ceased, it ceased in Israel, Until I, Deborah, arose, Arose a mother in Israel.*

*<sup>8</sup> They chose new gods; Then there was war in the gates; Not a shield or spear was seen among forty thousand in Israel. <sup>9</sup> My heart is with the rulers of Israel Who offered themselves willingly with the people. The LORD came down for me against the mighty.”*

*Judges 5 : 1-2, 6-9 (NKJV)*

1) *The prophetess who became a Judge of Israel:*  
*Leadership*

- salient qualities for the uncommon to become a hero
- great leadership borne of faith :
  - Aware of adversity and needs around
  - Stepping out of security of a Judge

1) *The prophetess who became a Judge of Israel:*  
*Leadership*

- great leadership borne of faith :
  - Leading leaders by the leading of the Lord
  - Picking right people to fight and win the war

1) *The prophetess who became a Judge of Israel:*  
*Leadership*

- ❖ Be aware and care for the needs of others
- ❖ Be willing to step out of your comfort zone
  - go beyond the difficult to the demanding

1) *The prophetess who became a Judge of Israel:*  
*Leadership*

- ❖ Be prepared to lead leaders
  - like leading your peers
  - lead by the leading of the Lord

1) *The prophetess who became a Judge of Israel:*  
*Leadership*

- ❖ Grow in wisdom and judgement
- people who are willing to lead
- hearts are aligned with the people and purposes of God

2) *The woman in tent who became a silent killer:*  
*Courage*

- Jael the unlikely hero

*Judges 4 : 17-22*

*"<sup>17</sup> However, Sisera had fled away on foot to the tent of **Jael, the wife of Heber** the Kenite; for there was **peace between Jabin king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite.** <sup>18</sup> And Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said to him, "Turn aside, my lord, turn aside to me; do not fear." And when he had turned aside with her into the tent, she covered him with a blanket.*

*<sup>19</sup>Then he said to her, "Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty." So she opened a jug of milk, gave him a drink, and covered him." "<sup>20</sup> And he said to her, "Stand at the door of the tent, and if any man comes and inquires of you, and says, 'Is there any man here?' you shall say, 'No.'"*

*21 Then Jael, Heber's wife, took a tent peg and took a hammer in her hand, and went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple, and it went down into the ground; for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died. 22 And then, as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him, and said to him, "Come, I will show you the man whom you seek." And when he went into her tent, there lay Sisera, dead with the peg in his temple." Judges 4 : 17-22*

2) *The woman in tent who became a silent killer:  
Courage*

- friendly terms with Jabin but true friends of Israel and friends of God!
- Jael knew where her loyalty lay
- woman in tent and not a woman in armour

2) *The woman in tent who became a silent killer:*  
*Courage*

- could use a hammer and a tent peg but she carried no sword or spear
- courageous, willing and available

2) *The woman in tent who became a silent killer:*  
*Courage*

- \* *"Behold, I am sending you out like sheep in the midst of wolves; be wary and wise as serpents, and be innocent (harmless, guileless, and without falsity) as doves." Matthew 10:16 (AMPC)*

2) *The woman in tent who became a silent killer:*  
*Courage*

- we think that we are not good enough
- we think that they are not good enough

- good sense of loyalty, courage and wisdom like Jael
- resourceful and be willing to use simple tools in hand to accomplish big things for God

\* *1 Samuel 17*

\* *Matthew 14*



2) *The woman in tent who became a silent killer:*  
*Courage*

*1 Corinthians 1:27 (NKJV)*

*"But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty"*

3) *The reluctant General who became a man of faith: Strength*

- Barak the unrecognized hero
- strong leader and a general

3) *The reluctant General who became a man of faith:  
Strength*

*Judges 4 : 10 & 14 (NKJV)*

*"<sup>10</sup> And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; he went up with **ten thousand men under his command**, and Deborah went up with him . . .*

*<sup>14</sup> Then Deborah said to Barak, "Up! For this is the day in which the LORD has delivered Sisera into your hand.*

3) *The reluctant General who became a man of faith:  
Strength*

*Has not the LORD gone out before you?" So Barak went down from Mount Tabor **with ten thousand men following him.**"*

*Judges 4 : 10 & 14 (NKJV)*

3) *The reluctant General who became a man of faith:*  
**Strength**

- did very well but he was not given the top prize of being honoured

\* *"So she said, "I will surely go with you; nevertheless there will be no glory for you in the journey you are taking, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.""*

*Judges 4:9 (NKJV)*

3) *The reluctant General who became a man of faith:*  
**Strength**

- team captain
- champion team
- player of the year goes to the team goal keeper

*Judges 4 : 6-8 (NKJV)*

*"Then she **sent and called for Barak** the son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, **and said to him**, "Has not the LORD God of Israel commanded, '**Go and deploy troops at Mount Tabor**'; take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun;*

*<sup>7</sup> **and against you I will deploy Sisera**, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude at the River Kishon; and I will deliver him into your hand'?" <sup>8</sup> **And Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!"**"*

*Judges 4 : 6-8 (NKJV)*

3) *The reluctant General who became a man of faith:*  
**Strength**

- wronged him by placing too much weight on initial reluctance when it is the ultimate obedience that matters most
- not honoured at the material time but in time memorial

*1 Samuel 12 : 6–11 (NKJV)*

*“Now Samuel said to all Israel: <sup>6</sup> Then Samuel said to the people, “It is the LORD who raised up **Moses and Aaron**, and who brought your fathers up from the land of Egypt . . . <sup>9</sup> And when they forgot the LORD their God, He sold them into the hand of Sisera, commander of the army of Hazor, into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab; and they fought against them.”*

*"<sup>10</sup> Then they cried out to the LORD, and said, 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD and served the Baals and Ashtoreths; but now deliver us from the hand of our enemies, and we will serve You.' <sup>11</sup> And the Lord sent Jerubbaal, (Gideon-Targum, Deborah-Syriac) Bedan, (Barak-Septuagint) Jephthah, and Samuel, and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side; and you dwelt in safety." 1 Sam 12 : 6-11 (NKJV)*

*Hebrews 11 : 32-34 (NKJV)*

*"And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: <sup>33</sup> who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight, the armies of the aliens."*

- Barak was cited as a hero of faith
- Two important lessons :
  - not judge others based purely on past failure
  - secondly we must not hesitate to change our mind when we realized that we are wrong

*Matthew 21 : 28-34 (NKJV)*

*"But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' <sup>29</sup> He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. <sup>30</sup> Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. <sup>31</sup> Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to Him, "The first."*

*Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you in **the way of righteousness**, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and **when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him.**"*

*Matthew 21 : 28-34 (NKJV)*

## CONCLUSION