

Judges 5:24-32 – How God Used Three Women

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: There is a strong woman's touch in the 2nd part of Deborah's song. Deborah described the work of 3 women who were used by God: Jael, Sisera's mother, and herself. Today you will see the role that each of the three women played in the kingdom of God.

Our headings are:

Jael – Looking out for the Lord's People

Sisera's mother – Looking through the Lattice

Deborah – Looking to the Latter Times

Our goals are: That you will see when God works in you and brings you to himself through Jesus Christ, how it changes your perspective and your actions.

Jael – Looking out for the Lord's People

24 "Most blessed among women is Jael, The wife of Heber the Kenite; Blessed is she among women in tents.

1. Who was Jael? She was a foreign believing woman, a Kenite, living on the outskirts郊区 of Israel. She was of the descendants后人 of Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, a believer. She lived in a tent!

2. Jael was blessed. "Blessed" does not mean "happy," as some interpret it. That is too mild. "Blessed" describes how God saw her. This is a spiritual term. She was godly. **Jael was so blessed for her godliness that a song was written about her, a song read and sung by hundreds of millions of people.** Meroz, a close by city, was not blessed, but cursed, because Meroz's residents did not help Israel. Jael helped Israel and was blessed.

25 He asked for water, **she gave milk**; She brought **out cream** in a **lordly bowl**.

3. What did Jael do to help Israel? She gave Sisera, the general of the invading army, the choicest of milk – with the most cream – to show that she cared for him. (This was before the days of homogenizing.) Seeing the best milk...in the best bowl, Sisera thought Jael was a friend. What a wonderful deception骗局. What a necessary deception. She lulled麻痹 him to sleep, covered him with a blanket.

26 She stretched her hand to the tent peg销子, Her right hand to the workmen's hammer; She **pounded** Sisera, **she pierced his head**, She split and struck through his temple. 27 At her feet he sank, he fell, he lay still; At her feet he sank, he fell; Where he sank, there he fell dead.

4. As Sisera slept, Jael drove the tent spike长钉 into his temple on one side till it came out the other side and stuck him to the ground. Our translation doesn't show it, but the text suggests that she cut off his head after nailing him. Our text assumes the parallelism between "pounded Sisera" and "pierced his head." But the word translated as "pierced" means to "annihilate剪除" or "cut off."

Judges 4:21 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.

And Sisera died...at the hands of a woman. He was the master of the iron chariots and he killed many with them, but now one single (probably iron) peg from a woman brought him low.

5. What Jael did was commendable可取. Jael loved the Lord will all heart, mind, and strength! She showed love by her work. Imagine how many of her brothers and sisters would have been killed if Sisera had escaped. And with her work done, she **could go to sleep at night knowing she had obeyed God.** Imagine how lousy烂she would have slept if she knew that she had let this murderer escape! Some people frown at this. They don't like the blood and gore. But that was the price of freedom.

6. Lessons for today: A Christian's duty is more than spiritual...and more than working for a good income. **Sometimes you have to kill, by war or self-defence, those who threaten your existence** and prevent you from doing your duty. Sometimes there are smaller but no less important things you can do for the kingdom. It might be the **help you give a small group of catechism students.** It might be **being a personal mentor.** Little things build the kingdom. **But there is a redemptive lesson as well.** Your enemy, the roaring lion, the Devil, had to be destroyed so you could go free. That is why Jesus had to come and destroy his power on the cross. Don't make the excuse that you are woman, or a child, or inarticulate, or an immigrant.

Sisera's Mother – looking through the lattice

28 "The mother of Sisera looked through the window, And cried out through the lattice, 'Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why **tarries** 耽擱 **the clatter** 哒 **of his chariots?**' 29 **Her wisest ladies** answered her, Yes, she answered herself,

1. Sisera's mother was watching through a window and through the lattice. Rich Canaanites built latticed windows to allow air to circulate through their houses. So Deborah is describing luxury. Poor Jael only had an ordinary tent for a house and cloth for a door. Yet, Jael was richer than this rich woman.

2. Sisera's mother wondered where her son was, but she wasn't worried like a mother who has a son who is a cop 警察 might worry. **She was simply impatient to get the luxuries he was bringing back.** Both she and her **son had confidence – trust in his 900 iron chariots!** Jael, however, remembered the name of the Lord her God – trusting in him.

3. Sisera's mother rationalize that her son was enjoying success. And her servants agreed. **She was confident in Sisera's ability to kill** so she was confident that he would bring home the spoils 赃物 of war. **She cared nothing about the morality** 道德 **of the war – she was indifferent** 无所谓 **to the attacking an innocent nation. Since she was such a wicked woman, it might be why we don't know her name.** Her name could easily have been Pleasure or Wealth.

30 'Are they not finding and **dividing the spoil**: To **every man a girl** or two; For Sisera, plunder 赃物 of dyed garments, Plunder of garments **embroidered and dyed**, Two pieces of dyed embroidery for the **neck of the looter?**'

4. But look at the details of the things she thinks her son is doing. (She does this to comfort herself.)

- She thinks that Sisera is literally dividing the women of Israel** – and so in a rather crude way: "A uterus or two for every man." What contempt for the women of Israel-God's people.
- She thinks that Sisera was dividing the dyed and embroidered clothes** – the expensive things. Surely she expected to get some.
- She thinks that Sisera and his soldiers were looting for necklaces.** What a contrast from the Proverbs 31 woman. Sisera's mother didn't work for her family and her handmaids 婢女.

1 Timothy 6:9 But **those who [crave] to be rich fall into temptation and a snare** 圈套, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition 沉沦.

How disappointed Sisera's mother was when she found out that Sisera's pursuit of creature comforts was the cause of his death!

5. Sisera's mother was used by God to encourage the lusts of the enemies of God's people and so ultimately bring down their destruction. Let this be a serious warning to parents not to push your children to obsess 缠住 about worldly things. **If you do, you are contributing to the death of your children.** Remember also **that the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.** Many Christian parents will be disappointed when all the success their children have would be measured by university degrees which matter only temporarily. **Can anyone not be disappointed in the next life while he fights against the purpose and people of God?**

Deborah – Looking to the Latter Times

31 "Thus **let all Your enemies perish** 消灭, O LORD! But **let those who love Him be like the sun** When it comes out in full strength." So the land had rest for forty years.

1. Deborah sang about her desire for the future for God's children and God's enemies.

2. She desired that all of God's enemies might perish. And there is nothing unchristian about that!

Job 11:20 But the eyes of the wicked will fail, **And they shall not escape**, And their hope--loss of life!"

This was God's prediction – multiple times. God destroys his enemies because that is the only way you will be safe. Don't let error hinder you from praying properly! Look again!

Psalm 92:9 For behold, Your enemies, O LORD, For behold, **Your enemies shall perish**; All the workers of iniquity 罪孽 shall be scattered 疏散.

3. Deborah desired that Israel do great exploits, live and die for God, and spread his influence – his light - in the entire world. She used the analogy 比喻 of the Middle Eastern sun which covers everything, and hardly ever gets blocked out by storm clouds. Because this is a prayer – which is a crying out to God for help-this clearly reminds you that this was not a work done by the hands of men, but by the strength of God. Man needed God!

4. Isn't Jesus the ultimate light? Isn't he the Light of the World? Isn't he called the Sun of Righteousness rising with healing in his wings (Malachi 4)?

Revelation 1:16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and **His countenance was like the sun** shining in its strength.

Isn't this what Simeon cried out when he saw the Baby Jesus?

Luke 2:30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation 31 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, 32 **A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles,** And the glory of Your people Israel."

5. Aren't you called to be lights in this world of darkness? And aren't you called to shine your light for everyone to see, and don't you sing, "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine?"
1Thessalonians 5:5 **You are all sons of light and sons of the day.** We are not of the night nor of darkness.

Matthew 5:14 "**You are the light of the world.** A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

And didn't Christ give you the authority and command to shine? And you simply follow his example. So, do people see God working in you to shine this light? Or would you be ashamed if your brothers knew how you acted around your non-Christian friends?

6. As a result of Deborah and Jael, the land had rest 40 years. Learn that by your life you can bring **future blessings to your children or future curses on them.** The term "generational curse" is abused, but the spiritual state of your children when they leave the home will determine how they will continue. Let me challenge you to make sure your children are better equipped than you before they leave home.

Conclusion:

God used all 3 women. Jael looked out for the welfare of God's people, even at the risk of her own life. Sisera's mother looked out through the lattice hoping for loot from her looter掠夺者son. Deborah looked to the future, to latter times, when God's people would spread the influence of their Savior everywhere.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Because you believe in Jesus and have the eternal hope of heaven, doesn't it change how you live in this life? It should. You aren't controlled by success in this life or the accumulation of possessions. You are willing to share what you have. In God's providence, you are the richest people in the world as far as earthly wealth goes! Don't be greedy for more. **Learn** to share. But more than that, you are some of the most spiritually blessed people in the world with the knowledge of the Gospel of Christ and the Reformed Faith. **Learn** to share that beautiful faith to make others rich. Let God use you.

Finally, if you are not a Christian, you probably are concerned about things in this world – to enjoy and save them. But all the things of this world will rot. So must set your minds beyond this world. But for you to have things that truly matter in the life, you need to have your relationship with God made right. Only Jesus can make it right. Only his life and death are acceptable to God for sinners. Ask God today to make you right through Jesus. Otherwise, you will have to die for your own sins in hell forever.