



SERMON NOTES

Sunday, June 20, 2021 | Pastor Scott Boerckel

“How to Meet Impossible Situations— with Faith or with Fear?”

Judges 4

1. The Impossible Situation Described (Judges 4:1-3)

2. The Weakness of the Human Saviors (Judges 4:4-10)

3. The Lord Is Victorious (Judges 4:11-16)

4. A conclusion that fits the times (Judges 4:17-24)

Table Talk

- 1) What was impossible about Israel's situation? (4:1-3) What sorts of impossible situations are you experiencing?
- 2) Who is Deborah and what is she doing? (vv. 4-5) Is the introduction of a female judge a way of indicating Israel's decline, or is it an indication of equality of gender—that women have just as much a “right” to be judges as men do? Why is this text in the scripture? Is it to show that women should have positions of leadership? In what ways is Deborah like other judges? In what ways is she different? What applications might we make for the church from the story of Deborah?
- 3) Why might Barak be more frightened than Deborah? Why might he know the military situation a bit better than Deborah? Why might Deborah know the LORD a bit better than Barak? Why does Deborah make a point of saying that Barak will lose out on glory? (vv. 4-10)
- 4) Who does the leadership in the military battle against Sisera? What role does Deborah play? What role does Barak play? How is it helpful in any organization to have different people play different roles? What happens when someone tries to take a role that belongs to another person? (vv. 12-16)
- 5) What kind of a person is Jael? Are her actions “godly” or not? How does she lure Sisera in? How does Jael demonstrate remarkable physical strength? Why might she have such physical abilities? (vv. 17-22)
- 6) Who is described as the ultimate victor in this text? (see v. 23) How does a story like this give us hope for our impossible situations? In what way does the correct view of meeting impossible situations involve relying wholly on the Lord? In what way does the correct view of meeting impossible situations involve faith AND our own actions? When have you stepped out in faith to take a risk to obey the Lord?