



Barak/ Deborah

This generation is strange to me. It is the era of the girl boss. 100-pound women beating up 200-pound men. Hollywood is dilutional. Yet, it appears Deborah is a girl boss. She is leading the nation. Deborah is the judge and warrior. A hundred-pound woman beating up warriors? What I am saying is that God had no issue with giving women a prominent role on the battle field. She is the leader of men. Clearly, she is a wife, judge, warrior, and maybe even a home maker. Yet, most of all she is brave and decisive.

Is Barak the semi judge? I get the impression that Barak is Deborah's commanding officer. He is not her husband or lover. No, he is a warrior. Deborah commands him to take an enemy named Sisera. Yes, Barak does this with ten thousand men. This man is also a leader and decisive. He is bold enough to ask Deborah to go with them. Together, these two lead the nation. Now it says they had peace for forty years. Does that mean that Deborah led them for forty years? Not in my lifetime have I heard of peace. There has always been war and conflict. It's entirely possible we need a girl boss to rule us all in peace.

Let's talk about Barak. For much of Israel's history they had very few weapons. Some of the occupying leaders of the Israelites did not let them have weapons. It was well known that this nation were fierce warriors. Sisera came at them with iron chariots. Yet, God routed them in battle. Barak commanded ten thousand men to victory probably with very little weaponry.

Clearly, Barak was a great commander. I would also say that he had great faith. Deborah reminded him that the battle was the Lord's. It appears that Barak agreed and they won. I think what scared other nations was Israel's ability to fight from a place of weakness and win. By faith Barak led the charge.

I would like to point out that this fierceness is in all of them. Another wife named Jael comes into the battle. This is unreal stuff. Jael sees Sisera fleeing Barak. Does she run to her husband or hide? No, Jael goes out to the battle and draws Sisera in to the safety of her tent. Then she offers him a place to hide and rest. Jael unbelievably proceeds to drive a tent peg through his head. Then she meets Barak and shows him her handy work. Yes, this nation is fierce. Just ask the wives!

Jesus mentions during the sermon on the mount the word meek. It actually means to be submissive to leadership. To have eyes fixed on the prize. Jael, Deborah, and Barak had their eyes on the prize. Eyes on the Lord too. By faith they boldly jumped into action. Ok, so let's talk about Deborah. She is a beloved character in the Bible yet, there is so little that we know of her. She is not in the line of David and there is no cute story that defines her like Gideon and Sampson. Yet, her eyes were fixed on the Lord. I would say that she is a meek warrior for the Lord.

Deborah is a humble person. She is not taking her position for granted. Instead, Deborah is using the assets that the Lord provided. Barak is obviously good at leading an army. Yet, I believe that Deborah is good at leading men. This is a woman that lives by faith. She trusts in the Lord. First off, she is a judge. In that time period it is amazing that a woman is a judge of men. Clearly, the people trusted her wisdom. Secondly, she is meek unto the Lord. Deborah reminds

Barak that the battle is the Lords. She is not driven by her own desires. She wants Israel to win, and more than that, the Lord to win.

Read the song of Deborah in Judges 4. We know so little of the life of Deborah. Yet, this song reveals her character. She knows her history. Deborah is singing praises to the Lord. Then she exalts Barak and Jael. Where is the exultation of Deborah in this song? It's not there. What makes a leader great 101? They come from a place of humbleness. They know who butters their bread. In several places Deborah mocks her enemies. That is where the faith comes in. Have you met people who just believe it? They trust in the Lord no matter what. Sometimes we roll our eyes at them. Yet, the fact remains that they believe. They look to the Lord in all they do. Why don't we too be like them? Maybe our faith needs to grow and look more like Deborah.

Both of these leaders are what we need. They are strong and fierce. Yet, they are able to be lead. The Lord does not have to struggle with these two. They know who is the leaders of the nation. The Lord! Yet, when called, they jump into the battle like meek warrior horses. It is going to be a long road. By little fault of their own, this generation is soft. Meek in modern terminology. Yet, there is hope. Battles will arise. Leaders will rise too. Is there another Deborah and Barak in this generation? It could look bleak but this is God we are talking about. The one who always leaves a remnant to pick up the battle. The book of Judges is fairly messy. Yet, Deborah and Barak are amazing people. Could the next one be you? Would you jump if God called?