



TIMING & PERSPECTIVE

God Confidence Week 3

THE STAR

- Judges 4
- Deborah is the star
- What an amazing woman
- A prominent figure
- A significant, well-known story in the Bible
- Judge. Prophetess. Nationally-recognized leader.
- Respected and honored.



THE STAR

- God speaks to her directly, gives her specific words and assignments.
- People come to her for her opinion.
- She interacts with leaders— including the commander of the army. She has direct personal access to him.
- She issues commands and is obeyed.
- That's what I want!!! How about you?



ANOTHER STORY

- In the middle of the story of Deborah, the Bible stops and tells another woman's story
- The story of Jael
- What comes before and what comes after Jael's story is *a larger story* about Deborah.
- In the middle of telling us the story of Deborah's life, **God stops** midway and inserts another story.



ANOTHER STORY

- Deborah's story *is put on pause* and the Bible inserts the story of a lesser known person.
- But this is a person who plays a pivotal role enabling Deborah—this famous, prominent one—to continue in the work that God has for her.
- Our lives intersect with one another!



ANOTHER STORY

- Do you feel like your story is *on pause*?
- Do you ever feel like your calling, your ministry, *your life* are on hold in some way?
- Like you've been waiting forever for the fulfillment of your destiny?
- (Sidenote: has the long wait shaken your confidence?)
- But you are not yet where you want to be.



AND NOW

- As Deborah's prominent story is unfolding, the Bible tells us in Judges 4:11... "Now."
- I've always loved that word "now" because that makes me stop to think: when is now?
- "Now" is while Deborah has the starring role in the nation of Israel.
- Now while Deborah is prominent and everybody knows about Deborah.
- Now we are going to meet an unknown housewife that God is going to use in a powerful way.



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"Now Heber the Kenite had left the other Kenites, descendants of Hobab, Moses' brother-in-law, and pitched his tent by the great tree in Zaanannim near Kedesh.

- Judges 4:11



WHO?

- Who are the Kenites?
- The Kenites were relatives of Moses!
- Even before Moses, they had a priest living among them.
- They were certainly always on friendly, helpful terms with the Israelites
- Jethro, Moses father-in-law who offered such wise counsel, was a Kenite.
- After the marriage, it appears they become part of the family of God.



WHO?

- But Heber has walked away from the people of God.
- He has pitched his tent among the ENEMY!
- ...and he took his wife with him.
- He put his whole family in danger because of his decision.
- Perhaps you can relate. Perhaps someone you love has walked away from God and made decisions that have negatively affected you.



“ “ When they told Sisera that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, Sisera summoned from Harosheth Haggoyim to the Kishon River all his men and his nine hundred chariots fitted with iron.

- Judges 4:12-13



WHO?

- Now Heber BETRAYS the people of God and serves as a spy, aiding the enemy!
- Heber is proactively working to defeat the purpose of God.
- Do you ever feel like you are living with someone who is helping the enemy defeat you?
- They know where your vulnerabilities are!



“Then Deborah said to Barak,
“Go! This is the day the Lord
has given Sisera into your
hands. Has not the Lord gone
ahead of you?” So Barak went
down Mount Tabor, with ten
thousand men following him.

- Judges 4:14



“ At Barak’s advance, the Lord routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword, and Sisera got down from his chariot and fled on foot. Barak pursued the chariots and army as far as Harosheth Haggoyim, and all Sisera’s troops fell by the sword; not a man was left.

- Judges 4:15



WHO WINS?

- Notice: Barak advances...but it is the Lord who routs.
- Barak steps out in faith (despite his fears)...but God wins the battle.



“ Sisera, meanwhile, fled on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, because there was an alliance between Jabin king of Hazor and the family of Heber the Kenite.

- Judges 4:17



THE WELCOME MAT

- At last we meet her! The woman of the hour: Jael.
- She's a housewife. No, a tent wife !
- The wife of a husband who has walked away from the people of God and is now a spy for the enemy.
- She didn't go looking for a fight. She was just minding her own business.



THE WELCOME MAT

- When someone in our family forms an alliance with the enemy, it does indeed become an open invitation for the enemy to enter our home.
- The first time I shared this message was at a women's conference in Colombia. I'm sure many of the women in the room had husbands involved with drug trafficking or Marxist guerillas.
- Not sure what your husband or family members are up to - but we live in dangerous times.



THE WELCOME MAT

- Pornography is epidemic - that's one obvious way the enemy is invited into our homes.
- Maybe someone is bringing drugs, alcohol, violence, anger, bitterness or confusion into your home.
- TV has a hypnotic affect.
- Be sure you are praying The Prayer of Protection. www.donnapartow.com/protection
- Be sure you are “armed and dangerous.”



THE WELCOME MAT

- You are NOT powerless, although you may be tempted to feel like a victim.
- You can rise up and secure the victory.
- It's time to get pro-active!
- ...which is what Jael is about to do.



“

Jael went out to meet Sisera

- Judges 4:18



RISE UP

- She went out to meet her enemy!
- She didn't run and hide.
- She didn't hope "someone else" would deal with it.
- She wasn't a passive observer.
- She went out to meet him.



“ Jael went out to meet Sisera and said to him, “Come, my lord, come right in. Don’t be afraid.” So he entered her tent, and she covered him with a blanket.

- Judges 4:18



COVERED!

- She covered the enemy!
- We need to cover everything under the Blood of Jesus.
- If the enemy comes into our house, we need to cover him with the blood of Jesus. We need to cover the computer, cover the telephone, cover the bed, cover whatever it is. We need to pray a covering of the blood of Jesus over the work of the enemy in our house.



“ But Jael, Heber’s wife, picked up a tent peg and a hammer and went quietly to him while he lay fast asleep, exhausted. She drove the peg through his temple into the ground, and he died.

- Judges 4:21



Jael's Journey

- The Bible is careful to remind us, in case we quickly forgot — this is *Heber's* wife.
- She's not the wife of a great guy, not the wife of a spiritual giant. She's *that guy's* wife.
- Do you know why she picked up a tent peg and a hammer? Because that's what she had available. She didn't have a master's degree from a business school. She didn't have a theology degree. She hadn't gone to an evangelistic training school.



JAEI'S JOURNEY

- She was a tent wife, she was a nomad who moved from place to place.
- All she had was a skill that she had developed through years of diligently pitching her tent where her husband told her to.
- Even if it was in enemy territory.
- She learned something valuable in *that* season of her life - a season she might be tempted to despise.
- We can learn something valuable in every season.



Jael's Journey

- She didn't waste time bemoaning the fact that she wasn't Deborah.
- She didn't sit and think, "If only I were a prophetess and everyone knew my name!"
- She used the skill she had developed in obscurity and it catapulted her into her destiny.
- Are you developing skill in obscurity?
- It is a theme throughout scripture.



OBSCURITY

- Moses learned to navigate the wilderness as a shepherd for his father-in-law (the Kenite, Jethro).
- David learned to use a slingshot.
- Joseph learned how to run a large household.
- These skills developed during obscurity were critical to their moment of destiny.
- Jael had a skill: she could hammer a tent peg.



JAEI'S JOURNEY

- Notice she goes for the head.
- That's where thoughts and opinions come from.
- We need to take up our hammer and tent pegs and do battle with the thoughts and opinions that are trying to destroy us.
- Notice she used what was in her hand.
- What do you have in your hand?



“

Just then Barak came by in pursuit of Sisera, and Jael went out to meet him.

- Judges 4:22



JAEL'S JOURNEY

- From total obscurity to encountering two of the most powerful men of her time...in a nanosecond.
- Another pattern in scripture.
- God finds us faithful in obscurity and, in an instant, promotes us into our destiny.
- “For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.” Psalm 75:6-7 (KJV)



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On that day God subdued
Jabin king of Canaan before the
Israelites.

- Judges 4:21



THAT DAY

- On THAT day...
- On what day?
- On the day Jael stepped up and stepped into her destiny.
- On the day when Jael was promoted from total obscurity to the pinnacle of national importance.
- On THAT day, the tide was turned in the nation.



THAT DAY

- The Bible tells us at the end of chapter 3 that His people have been on the run for 20 years.
- The enemy had been defeating their country, running everywhere and ruling the place like they owned it.
- For 20 years, they were on the losing side of this battle. Then suddenly, this housewife rises up, takes her stand in her own home and on that *that day*, God won a mighty victory through this woman.



ANOTHER STORY

- God needed to do something in and through the life of an obscure housewife (named Jael) in order to get this more prominent woman, Deborah, to where He wanted her to be.
- But Jael's moment did not arrive until Deborah set some things in motion that would change the course of Jael's life.
- Our lives — our destinies — intersect.
- It's not always about us.



ANOTHER STORY

- There's a beauty in understanding there's more going on in your lives than meets the eye.
- Someday when the story of your life is told, you're going to see a bigger picture.
- You're going to see that the decisions you made in the privacy of your own home really had a much larger impact than you ever imagined.



ANOTHER STORY

- Someday when the lives of some very prominent people unfold on the movie screen of Heaven, we're going to see that there were a lot of lesser people who were vital to the story.
- Those who played a supporting role will be revealed and rewarded.
- Consider this: You may be playing a part in a story that's far larger than you can now imagine.



“ Villagers in Israel would not fight; they held back until I, Deborah, arose, until I arose, a mother in Israel.

- Judges 5:7



ANOTHER STORY

- Notice timing!
- Many were waiting for Deborah to arise.
- Deborah urged Barak to arise.
- Circumstances challenged Jael to arise.
- All of these lives and stories intersect.
- Often when we think we are waiting for God, God is waiting for *someone* on earth to arise!



“

"Most blessed of women be Jael, the wife of Heber, the Kenite.

- Judges 5:24



STEPPING INTO BLESSING

- Notice how it keeps reminding us who her husband is?
- She is the "most blessed" not because she had a perfect husband or because of his choices.
- She is the "most blessed" because of her own choice.
- She chose to rise up in her own home and fight a spiritual battle with whatever was in her hand.



STEPPING INTO BLESSING

- Blessed means “happy and to be envied.”
- God wants to write a story in your life that is so amazing, people will look at your life...and wish it was theirs!
- The blessing came even as she dwelled in the midst of her enemies.
- We have the same promise.



“

You prepare a table before
me in the presence of my
enemies.

- *Psalm 23:5*



STEPPING INTO BLESSING

- Many of us secretly want to be Deborah, but the Bible says Jael is the “most blessed among tent dwelling women” and we can be pretty sure Deborah lived in a tent!
- This humble tent wife is *the most blessed* because her story is in some ways even more remarkable than the obviously-gifted Deborah.
- The world isn’t surprised when God works through the super-stars. They watch and wonder when he works through the rest of us!



“

"Then the land had peace for
40 years."

- Judges 5:31



WHEN IS THEN?

- Then is when an obscure woman found the courage and God Confidence to step into her destiny!
- She impacted not only herself and her family.
- She impacted an entire nation.
- Not for a brief moment, but for decades.
- Her single act of bravery impacted future generations.



FINAL THOUGHTS

- Develop skill.
- Be diligent in obscurity.
- God will promote you **IF you have developed skill!**
- Be ready when your moment comes.
- Remain patient. God may be working in someone else's story, but your "now" is coming!
- Walk in total God Confidence knowing your moment **WILL** come as God's larger story unfolds.





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