

## Deborah: A woman used by God Judges 4 & 5

### I. God uses people we may not expect: Deborah, Barak, Jael (The Story – Judges 4).

- A. Deborah – God called a woman to have a spiritual and leadership impact (4:4-10, 14-16).
- B. Barak – God used Barak, but not as greatly as He could have (4:8-9).
- C. Jael – God used a woman in the course of an ordinary day to bring about an extraordinary victory (4:18-23).

### II. Principles of Serving God (Judges 4 & 5)

- A. God uses the willing who make themselves available.

#### Serving Willingly or Making Excuses?

1. Many willingly offered themselves (Judges 5:9-15a)
  - Zebulun, Naphtali, Ephraim, Benjamin, Issachar, Makir (Manasseh)
2. Many made excuses *not* to serve (Judges 5:15b-18)
  - Reuben – *Campfires & flocks*: Things to take care of at home
  - Gilead (Gad) – *Beyond river*: Not my problem. Too far to go.
  - Dan – *Ships* – Career; money to be made
  - Asher – *Stayed on seacoast*: Comfort. I'm a homebody.

- B. We can miss out on ways God wants to use us.
- C. God sometimes uses women in roles that men refuse.

### III. God is to be praised for His victory, regardless of who He uses (The Song – Judges 5).

- A. Praise God for using anyone willing (5:2,9).
- B. Praise God for miraculously controlling nature and bringing victory for Israel (5:4-8,20-22).
- C. Praise God for His justice (5:24-31).