

Deborah, Barak & Jael

Judges 4-5

Warm up

How do you feel about the violence within the book of Judges?

How is it that God can command the extermination of a whole city and remain righteous, holy and good?

Looking at the Passage

Why do you think the narrator makes such a big deal about the iron chariots?

What is unique about this Judge?

Summarise the exchange between Deborah and Barak?

How do you feel about Barak's response? Why?

What about Deborah's response? At this point in the story, what do you think Deborah means by this?

How do you explain the success of Barak's forces? What is the significance of this?

How would you have expected Jael to treat Sisera?

Why do you believe she acted in the way she did?

Chapter 5:24-31 summarise the account. What seems to be the main point of this whole episode?

Implications

How does the example of Jael challenge your view of:

- God's attitude toward his enemies?
- what it means to love God?

In what ways can we be guilty of the same lack of faith as Barak?

How do we attempt to manipulate God?

How can we avoid Barak's error?

In your mind, who is the hero of the story?

What difference should the fact that God himself saves you make to the way you live?