

Judges

The Time of Judges (& Now) | Week 3

**11 MEN & 1
WOMAN SET
OVER ISRAEL TO
JUDGE**

**TENT PEGS,
DONKEY BONES,
& LEFT-
HANDEDNESS**

**SET APART FOR
GOD BUT SET IN
THEIR SINFUL
WAYS**

Not

PERFECT

LIFE IN THE WAITING

THE TIME OF THE JUDGES

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. - Judges 21:25



COFFEE TALK

- Think of a time where you felt outnumbered. This memory could be about playing a sport, or it could be about feeling like people's opinions and views were ganging up on you, or it could be about the onslaught of news or information that is rapidly being thrown at you.

Now that you have that memory, describe to the group what that memory is and why you felt you were outnumbered. How did you handle the feelings and emotions that came with being outnumbered? When this event took place, were you a Christian? If so, how did you pray for deliverance? If you were not a Christian, how did you handle (or seek) deliverance from the situation? What have you learned about trusting God when you feel outnumbered or maybe even overwhelmed?

(This relates to the Israelites crying out to God when they were concerned about the 900 chariots and the threat of Jabin and Sisera)



READ

- Judges 4-5
(Appx. 10 min. to read)



REFLECT

- What stood out to you in the reading? Why?

- Deborah was a prophetess and a judge. The text tells us that people would come to her for judgement where she sat under a palm tree in the hill country of Ephraim. She seems to be a well respected woman.

Why is it important for Deborah's character to be strong in the midst of these events? When she summons Barak, how does that act fit with what we know about Deborah? What else might you like to know about this judge of Israel?

- Barak hesitates to follow God's command (v.6) of leading an army against Jabin's army. Even with the promise of having Sisera given into Barak's hands, he is hesitant to follow what God has called him to. Deborah has to call Barak to action, yet his response was still to want Deborah by his side.

Compare and contrast the faithfulness of Deborah and the fear of Barak.

Why is it important to see these two reactions in people that God has called according to His purposes? How have

you seen yourself act in both ways?

What have you learned from your time(s) when you have acted in fear?

What have you learned from the times you have acted in faith?

- Sisera escapes and flees on foot after the battle (v.17) and encounters Jael. Sisera asks for water but is given milk. He asks for her to stand watch but he is killed by the very one that he wanted to protect him. This fulfills what Deborah says to Barak (v.9).

Why do you think the events transpired this way? Why do you think God used this sequence of events, rather than using Barak since he was called to lead the military campaign (Leaders, consider the disobedience of Barak in understanding this question)?

- Verse 23 tells us that God is the one that subdued Jabin before the people of Israel. Why is it important to understand God as the victor here?



ACT

- In your own life, where do you need to recognize God's victory? Where have you been taking credit for something you did not truly accomplish?

- What lesson(s) did you learn from Deborah and how can you apply them to your life?