

DEBORAH AND GOD'S UNLIKELY HEROES

Judges 4-5

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- How do you define or identify a hero?
- Who do you consider to be a hero of faith? Why?

It's easy to think we don't have the skills or training to serve God, but the story of Deborah, Barak, and Jael demonstrate God's willingness to use anyone who is faithful and committed to him. Deborah's story also points us again to God's plan for salvation and reminds us to keep our eyes open and to look for God at work in unexpected places.

Listen: [*Deborah and God's Unlikely Heroes*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- In the opening segment, host Scott Hoezee observes that we have a human tendency to present the best possible version of ourselves, noting "when we tell our own stories, we often conveniently leave out things where we don't come off looking very good." How and where do you recognize this tendency in your life? Why is it important for us to be real and honest when sharing our testimony?
- In his commentary, *Judges For You*, Timothy Keller writes, "As will often be the case in this book [Judges] (as well as among God's people today) it is the unlikely and the outsider—a woman and the Kenites—who display real, radical faith" (19). Now read Matthew 18:2-4. Compare Keller's observation about Judges to Jesus' teaching about the Kingdom of Heaven. Is Keller's observation consistent with Jesus' teaching? Why or why not? What conclusions can we draw from these observations to help us cultivate and strengthen our own faith?
- Who from this story do you think demonstrates the most faith in God? Why? In what way are Deborah, Barak, and Jael all unlikely heroes? What qualities did they all share that made it possible for God to use them in his plan to deliver Israel?
- In segment 3, host Dave Bast remarks that Deborah and Jael are both champions "from an unexpected place." In what ways is Jesus Christ also a "champion from an unexpected place?" What do you think this story about Deborah, Barak, and Jael's deliverance of the Israelites contributes to our understanding of God's plan for salvation?

Related Passages

- **Deuteronomy 18:15-18**
- **1 Corinthians 1:26-29**

- **Hebrews 11:1, 32-33**

Conclusion

At the end of the episode Dave recalls a quote from Saint Teresa of Calcutta, “I am just a little pencil in God’s hand.” He responded to her reflection on her own life by declaring, “but God can write great stories with little pencils, and he can do it with us, too.”

How does this quote encourage you in your faith today? How does it challenge you?

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/deborah-and-gods-unlikely-heroes>

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