



When War Comes Home: The Prophetic Power of Women

Mother's Day, May 13, 2018

Text: Judges 4

Ladies, we honor you in the LORD and celebrate you today!

WHEN WAR COMES HOME: THE PROPHETIC POWER OF WOMEN

- Deborah was a judge and prophetess who, after 20 years of cruel oppression by the King of Canaan, sat under a palm and gave counsel to the fearful military leaders of Israel and judgement to the people. Sadly, many fail to see Deborah's story as a rebuke, as she herself told Barak (Judg 4:9). But IF we can see Deborah in light of New Testament commands, the need for women like her today....!
- Ladies, in many ways, Debra is a *type* that needs to be and should be fulfilled by millions of New Testament, Christ-exalting, Titus 2 *anti-types*, which means you.
- Why do I say this? Just look at the effectiveness of her ministry:
 1. She was in **position** to be a blessing (under her tree, still Mrs. Lappidoth) (v5)
 2. She heard God (v6)
 3. She was able to **inspire** the men around her (v8)
 4. She knew her **place** in the battle (vv9-14)
 5. She was a worshipper (Deborah and Barak's song in Judges 5)
- We need Deborah's today! When war "came home" (in other words, from her home she engaged in battle through her prophetic call to Barak), she was ready.
- She didn't swing a sword but encouraged the one who did!
- Ladies, this is often the case; the men in your life regularly need your encouragement and your prophetic voice more than you know!
- Men, while physically stronger in most cases (1 Pet 3:7), routinely suffer from fear and insecurity. We often mask these things through **bravado**, **avoidance**, or **silence**. Men are often passive when they should be industrious and demonstrating initiative.
- Like many men, Barak was hesitant and fearful. Yet God gave him victory, in large part, through the ministry of Deborah. He is even commended for it in the "Faith Hall of Fame" (Heb 11:31-33)

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- However, because of his lack of faith, Barak did not receive the ultimate honor of killing Sisera, the enemy King. As Deborah had prophesied (v9), this honor was given to a woman, Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite.
- Thinking he might escape to friendly territory, Sisera fled the battle. Just as war came to Deborah under the tree, War Came Home to Jael, and she was ready.

- Using **hospitality** and good home-keeping (LOL!), she lured him into relaxation and sleep. Then, ruthlessly, she killed him!

MAIN ENCOURAGEMENT:

1. Both of these ladies were used of God.
2. Both were presented in the context and covering of their husbands.
3. Both were “home” if you will, when War Came.
4. Both were used “prophetically,” Deborah to speak forth God’s will and Jael to fulfill part of it.
5. Both rose to the challenge.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Please don’t believe the lie that as women and mothers, you cannot be used of God. Just because your role is different from a man’s does not mean you are any less **significant**. God uses women!
2. These ladies were no less powerful because they were wives. There is no need for Christian women to resist being under authority. Indeed, every woman that is used powerfully by God in Scripture for Kingdom good is, in some way, presented as a **submissive** woman.
3. Don’t neglect the power and influence of **HOME!** Both of these women were *likely* in or near their homes when duty called. Too many women today do not see the significance of their homes being strategic outposts for the advancement of Christ’s Kingdom!
4. Women prophesy (cf. Acts 2:17; 1 Cor 11:5)! Women speak powerfully into situations for the glory of God. So many get sidetracked (and angry) by biblical prohibitions concerning the meeting of the local church (1 Tim 2/3, Titus 1, 1 Cor 14). This need not be! Consider how many other hours there are in each day; how many other environments in which to pray and prophesy!
5. Be strong ladies...God is for you not against you. As my friend Scott Brown wrote:

“The world needs Christ loving, husband helping, home making, dominion taking, kingdom making women. The Bible not only teaches women to be possessors of gentle and quiet spirits, it also teaches them to exercise their God-given wisdom and strength. They are vigorous and strong and distinctively feminine. They are supremely secure and are not frightened by any fear. They are brimming with confidence in the future and are not tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. They are happy because they fear the Lord and love His ways. Their worth is far above rubies, and they bring gain to their households. They are girded with strength and their clothing is of fine linen. The law of kindness is upon their lips. They do their husbands good all the days of their lives. They are “pillars sculptured in palace style” (Ps 144:12) with adornments that radiate the beauty of Christ and diffuse the fragrance of the aroma of Christ in every place.”

A MOTHER IN ISRAEL

In Deborah and Barak’s song in Judges 5:1-7, they describe the horrible conditions of Israel in the days of Shamgar, the judge before Deborah. William MacDonald said, “The dangers were such that the highways were deserted. Travelers used less direct routes in order to avoid robber bands. The villagers dared not venture out of their homes—that is, until . . . Deborah arose.”

This woman, this “mother in Israel” powerfully turned the tide of the nation by encouraging its military leader to fight! She gave counsel as to the will of the LORD. Jael used her domestic context to destroy an enemy of Israel...and ruthlessly at that!

Like many women God used throughout Scripture (Esther, Ruth, Mary, Priscilla, and others), both of these ladies were decidedly female, unashamedly womanly, and prophetically powerful.

May you dear sisters, be such. You are needed for such a time as this.

Amen.

APPLICATIONS FOR EDIFICATION (BUILDING UP) AND ENCOURAGEMENT

(ROM 14:19; EPH 4:9; 1 THES 5:11; JUDE 1:20)

1. This week, consider how you might be a greater blessing to the mothers and other sisters in your life.
2. Also, consider biblical womanhood. Do you embrace God’s command for women? Do you see them as beautiful?
3. Ask the LORD to give you 3-5 women to pray for and encourage this week. Then do it! :)