

Title: The Song of Revival

Scripture: Judges 5:1-7

Speaker: Vic Redding

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Judges 5:1-7 *“Then sang Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam on that day, saying, Praise ye the LORD for the avenging of Israel, when the people willingly offered themselves. Hear, O ye kings; give ear, O ye princes; I, even I, will sing unto the LORD; I will sing praise to the LORD God of Israel. LORD, when thou wentest out of Seir, when thou marchedst out of the field of Edom, the earth trembled, and the heavens dropped, the clouds also dropped water. The mountains melted from before the LORD, even that Sinai from before the LORD God of Israel. In the days of Shamgar the son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were unoccupied, and the travellers walked through byways. The inhabitants of the villages ceased, they ceased in Israel, until that I Deborah arose, that I arose a mother in Israel.”*

In the book of Judges we constantly see Israel sliding back. The judge will bring them up, they die, and then the nation slides. The judges were used to bring the nation back. This song of Deborah was a song of rejoicing because Israel was coming through a victory over their enemies. We see a few things about Deborah in this scripture:

1. Deborah was one of the few women named as a prophetess in the Bible who was given the ability to discern the mind and purpose of God in order to judge others.
2. In the days of Old Testament prophets/prophetesses, they were the voices of God to his people. Today we have ministers. They are supposed to speak on God’s behalf. They are not God.
3. Deborah would be the vessel that God would stir a broken and sinful people to come back to the Lord.
4. Israel was being called to battle. In Judges 4 Israel had 10,000 men to go to battle against their enemy who had 100,000 men. They were outnumbered. Deborah tells Barak that the battle will be won but not because of them and their power, but God’s. Preacher Vance Abner said “A good woman is the best thing on earth. Women were the last at the cross and the first at the open tomb.”

A common theme discussed among preachers is the need for revival. Just as we’ve been discussing “respectable sins” on Sunday mornings, many Christians are guilty of having the sin of unconcern in us. There are a few questions to think about regarding this unconcern that can overcome us.

1. What brought a reviving of God’s people during Deborah’s day?
2. Can God do the same today?
3. If so, then why do we sit idle?
4. Why are we not broken over souls?
5. Why is there no hunger, no thirst, after God and his work like we used to have?

What brought revival during Deborah’s day?

1. They had to return to the word of God. There was a man named Ehud who said he had a message from God that was to be brought to the people. When was the last time we had a desire to get the word out to others? The name “Deborah” in Hebrew [Dabar] means “the word” or living oracles. Romans 10:17 says *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”* If we are ever going to be used by God, his word has to have priority in our lives and in our churches. The same word that saved us should bring us closer to him. Psalm 119:130 says *“The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.”* A Christian who doesn’t maintain their lives by studying, following, and listening to God’s word will be malnourished. We are too influenced by our surroundings and not enough of God’s word.
2. They had to remember their past: Deborah told them to remember the way that God worked in the past. In Ecclesiastes 12:1 Solomon says *“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;”* Luke 16:25 discusses the parable

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of the rich man and Lazarus: *“But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.”* Revelation 2:5 says to the church of Ephesus *“Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”* In all these scriptures they were told to remember. II Samuel 19:35: *“I am this day fourscore years old: and can I discern between good and evil? can thy servant taste what I eat or what I drink? can I hear any more the voice of singing men and singing women? wherefore then should thy servant be yet a burden unto my lord the king?”*

3. They had to repent:

- a. They repented of the confusion of their purpose: (verse 6) they needed to repent of the hardships that were going on in their lives and they weren't trusting God. We all have struggles but the enemy is at work and will cause speed bumps in our lives. We must remember not to drag our feet and get overwhelmed because there is someone that is there with us.
- b. They repented of the disruption of fellowship: (verse 7) they began to lose fellowship with one another. Are you blessed by seeing your brothers and sisters in Christ? Do you miss them when they are gone? Do you worry about them when they aren't here? We should make one another welcome in the church.
- c. They repented of a disregard of devotion: (verse 8) they took other gods and the real God did not have priority in their lives.

4. They had to recognize their unity. (verse 9) Once they had come together for the battle against their enemy, they were in unity. Israel was called to see something in unity: the little tribe of Benjamin was just as necessary as the massive tribe of Ephraim. They were combining their abilities and strength. God was using them for his victory. Never ever look down and judge others less worthy than you are. All of them served a purpose when they came together. God took the small 10,000 and used them. Psalm 133:1 says *“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”*

We need to ask God what he wants from us in order to begin singing the song of revival.