

When God Brings the Hammer

Oct. 16, 2022 | Judges 4:1-5:31 | Mercy in the Night | Pastor Mike Foster

Notes on the story and song of Deborah and Barak:

Themes to consider:

1. The sure justice of God / Are you resting well in His promise and power?
2. The counterintuitive nature of faith / Are you really walking by faith?
3. The use of unlikely people / Are you responding to His call?
4. The honor and valor of women / Are you sharing in God's heart for women?
5. The mercy of God in Christ / Are you aware of what Jesus did for you?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. Which of the five themes we considered stood out the most to you? Why?
3. Read Psalm 33:4-5 and Isaiah 9:7. In what ways do you long for God's justice? What are some things that are wrong with this world and you long for Jesus to make right?
4. Read Romans 12:17-21. According to these verses, how does the Lord call us to trust in Him when we have experienced injustice or mistreatment? What does it mean to "leave room for God's wrath"?
5. Imagine being Barak going into battle with the odds stacked against you. What lies or just plain common sense did he have to overcome in order to walk by faith?
6. Describe a time when God called you to have a faith in Him that was counterintuitive to what felt most right and natural to you? How did God help you to trust Him? How did that work out?
7. Is there anything you need to trust in God for specifically today? What would it look like for you to walk by faith in that area? Who can you ask to help you?
8. Read Galatians 3:26-29. What do these verses teach about the equality of men and women? What does it look like to uphold such equality while also respecting and leaning into the gender differences with which God has beautifully designed us?
9. Share about a valiant and virtuous woman (like Deborah) in your life who has been a great blessing to you.
10. Read Colossians 1:21-22 and Romans 5:8-11. How would you explain to someone else what Jesus has done for them using these verses? How sure are you that you have trusted in Jesus Christ for salvation and will not suffer the eternal judgment of God (Romans 8:1)?

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

Read Psalm 33:1-5, Isaiah 9:1-7, Romans 12:17-21, Colossians 1:15-23

Read "God Uses Flawed People" – <https://cmda.org/god-uses-flawed-people/>

Read "What God wants you to know when life doesn't make sense"
– <https://relevantmagazine.com/faith/what-god-wants-you-to-know-when-life-doesnt-make-sense/>

Read "3 Ways God's Justice Comforts Us"
– www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/3-ways-gods-justice-comforts-us

Read *Worthy* and *Jesus & Gender* by Elyse Fitzpatrick and Eric Schumacher

Read "21 Places Women Emerge Front and Center in Scripture's Storyline" by Eric Schumacher
– www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/21-places-women-emerge-front-and-center-in-scriptures-storyline

Listen to "His Mercy is More" – www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNkdgILDs0M