



Our Next Guests – Deborah
Sermon Discussion Questions – July 24th, 2022

Scripture Passages:

Hebrews 12:1 (NIV) Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV84) Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:6 “And it is impossible to please God without faith...”

Joshua 24:16 (KJV) And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods.

Judges 2:10-11 (NIV) After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel. Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals.

Judges 4:4,5 (NIV) Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided.

Judges 4:8 (NIV) Barak said to her, “If you go with me, I will go; but if you don’t go with me, I won’t go.

Judges 4:14-15 (NIV) Then Deborah said to Barak, “Go! This is the day the Lord has given Sisera into your hands. Has not the Lord gone ahead of you?”

So, Barak went down Mount Tabor, with ten thousand men following him. At Barak's advance, the Lord routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword, and Sisera got down from his chariot and fled on foot.

Judges 5:7 (NIV) Villagers in Israel would not fight; they held back until I, Deborah, arose, until I arose, a mother in Israel

Joshua 1:9 (NIV) Haven't I commanded you? Strength! Courage! Don't be timid; don't get discouraged. God, your God, is with you every step you take.

Judges 5:3 (NIV) Here this, you kings! Listen, you rulers. I, even I, will sing to the Lord; I will praise the Lord, the God of Israel, in song.

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NIV) For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him...

Warm Up

At the beginning of his message, Pastor Scott shared the scripture in Hebrews 12:1 that talks about a cloud of witnesses or people of faith who came before us. Is there anyone in your life that you look up to or admire for their faith? Are there any people that you have admired in the past for their faith? Share about some of your faith heroes.

Discussion

1. Read Hebrews 11:1. Pastor Scott made these two observations about why God takes us through processes that develop our faith:
 - *God believes in you.*
 - *God has an assignment for you.*

What are some of your reactions to these two statements? How might it change the way someone views a circumstance if they know that God believes in them or has an assignment for them?

2. Toward the beginning of his message, Pastor Scott made this statement: When you don't know what to do in life...show God your faith and He will show you, His faithfulness. What might it look like for you to show God your faith? How have you seen God's faithfulness in times when you have had faith? If you can't think of any examples of faithfulness, take a few minutes to talk as a group about what it means for God to be faithful.
3. Read Joshua 24:16 and Judges 2:10-11. How are the people in these verses responding differently from one another? What might allow a generation to grow up without knowing the Lord?
4. In his message, Pastor Scott made this statement:
Faith encourages you to see impossible things become possible.

How have you seen this truth in the life of someone you know? Are there times when your own faith allowed you to see impossible things become possible? If so, take a few minutes to share about that.

5. Read Judges 4:4,5, 4:8, 4:14-15.
How would you describe Deborah based on what you read in these verses? How would you describe Deborah's faith based on what you read here?
6. Part way through the message, Pastor Scott explained that "Faith makes us brave."
How do you see this reality in the story of Deborah? How have you seen faith make someone else brave? How have you seen this kind of bravery spread to others?
7. Read Judges 4:8,9, and 5:7.
What effect does Deborah's faith on those around her? How might this impact the way we see our own faith and influence?
8. Read Judges 5:3.
Based on this verse, what is the secret to Deborah's faith? What might we learn from Deborah's story?

Next Steps:

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NIV) For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him...

Faith is made possible when our hearts are fully committed.

What might it look like for you to live fully committed? What is one way that your faith was challenged or encouraged by this week's message?