

*A Woman of Wisdom and Courage*

Judges 4:1-10, 14

Mother's Day 2008

[“What Famous Mothers Might Have Said”]

Through out history, God has used women to carry out His purposes. If not for godly women, the church would not have survived these 2000 years. If not for godly women, Zion Hill would not have survived these 140 years. Today, I want us to look at a godly woman who showed courage in the face of overwhelming odds, and had great wisdom. I want us to learn from this woman named Deborah.

1. Deborah was influenced by her relationship with God and not her culture (v. 1, 4-7)

*“...A woman who was a prophet and the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at the time.”* v. 4

*“Hasn't the Lord, the God of Israel, commanded you: ‘Go, deploy the troops...’”* v. 6

- Deborah was a prophet, which meant that she had a close relationship with God, because He trusted her with His message to His people
  - Deborah was a faithful wife, showing respect to her husband in an ungodly culture
  - A godly woman can be a faithful wife and mother and still be successful in her life and career
2. Deborah's wisdom influenced others for God (v. 5, 8, 14)

*“...The Israelites went up to her for judgment.”* v. 5b

*Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, I will go. But if you will not go with me, I will not go.”* v. 8

*Deborah said to Barak, “Move on, for this is the day the Lord has handed Sisera over to you. Hasn't the Lord gone before you?”* v. 14

3. Deborah's courage inspired others against great odds (v. 3, 6, 14)

*“...The Israelites cried out to the Lord, because Jabin had 900 iron chariots, and he harshly oppressed them 20 years.”* v. 3

*“...Hasn't the Lord, the God of Israel, commanded you: ‘Go, deploy the troops...’”* v. 6

*“‘Hasn't the Lord gone before you?’ So Barak came down from Mount Tabor with 10,000 men following him.”* v. 14

- The courage of Deborah against great odds impacted generals and soldiers, as well as her people
- Her courage was anchored in the God of Israel, and therefore, was unshakable in the midst of great odds
- Godly courage will influence others in times of crisis