

Judges 04 - Power of Encouragement

CHARIOTS Notice the LORD had warned them way back in Deuteronomy not to fear the chariot

- Deu 20:1 ESV "When you go out to war against your enemies, **and see horses and chariots** and an army larger than your own, **you shall not be afraid of them**, for the LORD your **God is with you**...
- **BUT.....**Jdg 1:19 ESV And the LORD was with Judah, and he took possession of the hill country, but **he could not drive out the inhabitants** of the plain because they had chariots of iron.

The Story of Chapter 4 - written after Ehud (in chap 3) had given them 80 years of rest

- Jdg 4:1-4 ESV And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD after Ehud died. 2 And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-hagoyim. 3 Then the people of Israel cried out to the LORD for help, for **he had 900 chariots of iron and he oppressed the people of Israel cruelly for twenty years**. Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time.

DEBORAH - AN EXAMPLE OF HOW TO BE AN ENCOURAGER → Encouragement is:

1) A call to respond to what the LORD has commanded

- Jdg 4:6 ESV She sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali and said to him, **"Has not the LORD, the God of Israel, commanded you, 'Go, gather your men** at Mount Tabor, taking 10,000 from the people of Naphtali and the people of Zebulun.

2) A reminder that God, too, is at work...we CAN face our fears → the chariots

- Jdg 4:7 ESV And I [*the LORD*] **will draw out Sisera**, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the river Kishon **with his chariots** and his troops, and **I will give him into your hand**?"

3) A standing with others to support obedience to God

- Jdg 4:8-9 ESV 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."** 9 And she said, **"I will surely go with you.**

4) Always speaks the truth

- 9 And she said, "I will surely go with you. **Nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory**, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.

5) Encouragement does not change the situation, it changes our perspective of the situation

- Jdg 4:12-15 ESV When Sisera was told that Barak the son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, 13 Sisera called out all his chariots, 900 chariots of iron, and all the men who were with him, from Harosheth-hagoyim to the river Kishon. 14 And Deborah said to Barak, **"Up! For this is the day in which the LORD has given Sisera into your hand. Does not the LORD go out before you?"** So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with 10,000 men following him. 15 **And the LORD routed Sisera** and all his **chariots** and all his **army** before Barak by the edge of the sword. And **Sisera got down from his chariot and fled away on foot.**

Tent Peg to the head.....Sisera is running to escape.....Barak is chasing him downa woman named Jael invites Sisera to her tent to rest.....as he sleeps, the bible says "she took a hammer went softly to him and drove a tent peg into his temple..... **4:23 So on that day God subdued Jabin the king of Canaan before the people of Israel.** [ultimately God gets the glory for our obedience]

Summary - ENCOURAGERS.....Calls to obedience.....Reminds that God is at work.....Stand with others to overcome fear.....Always speak the truth.....Help others see God's perspective