

“Don’t Sit Out of the Battle”
Judges 5:1-31
November 17, 2019

¹ *Then Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying...*

I. The Evils Sin Brings

⁶ *“In the days of Shamgar the son of Anath, In the days of Jael, the highways were deserted, And travelers went by roundabout ways. ⁷ “The peasantry ceased, they ceased in Israel, Until I, Deborah, arose, Until I arose, a mother in Israel. ⁸ “New gods were chosen; Then war was in the gates. Not a shield or a spear was seen Among forty thousand in Israel.*

- A. Israel was decimated financially and militarily.
- B. This was a consequence of the nations idolatry.

II. The Goodness of God’s People Fighting Together

² *“That the leaders led in Israel, That the people volunteered, Bless the Lord! ⁹ “My heart goes out to the commanders of Israel, The volunteers among the people; Bless the Lord! Then the people of the Lord went down to the gates. ¹² “Awake, awake, Deborah; Awake, awake, sing a song! Arise, Barak, and take away your captives, O son of Abinoam. ¹³ “Then survivors came down to the nobles; The people of the Lord came down to me as warriors. ¹⁴ “From Ephraim those whose root is in Amalek came down, Following you, Benjamin, with your peoples; From Machir commanders came down, And from Zebulun those who wield the staff of office. ¹⁵ “And the princes of Issachar were with Deborah; As was Issachar, so was Barak; Into the valley they rushed at his heels; ¹⁸ “Zebulun was a people who despised their lives even to death, And Naphtali also, on the high places of the field.*

- A. God’s people are called to fight for themselves.
- B. God’s people are called to fight with and for each other.

III. The Evil of God’s People Refusing to Join in the Fight

^{15b} *Among the divisions of Reuben There were great searchings of heart. ¹⁶ “Why did you sit among the sheepfolds, To hear the piping for the flocks? Among the divisions of Reuben There were great searchings of heart. ¹⁷ “Gilead remained across the Jordan; And why did Dan stay in ships? Asher sat at the seashore, And remained by its landings. ²³ ‘Curse Meroz,’ said the angel of the Lord, ‘Utterly curse its inhabitants; Because they did not come to the help of the Lord, To the help of the Lord against the warriors.’*

- A. It’s a bad thing when God’s people refuse to fight.

It’s a sign that something is truly wrong spiritually.

Hebrews 10:37–38 - ³⁷ *For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay.*
³⁸ *But My righteous one shall live by faith; And if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him.*

IV. The Goodness of God’s Participation in the Fight

³ *“Hear, O kings; give ear, O rulers! I—to the Lord, I will sing, I will sing praise to the Lord, the God of Israel. ⁴ “Lord, when You went out from Seir, When You marched from the field of Edom, The earth quaked, the heavens also dripped, Even the clouds dripped water. ⁵ “The mountains quaked at the presence of the Lord, This Sinai, at the presence of the Lord, the God of Israel. ¹⁰ “You who ride on white donkeys, You who sit on rich carpets, And you who travel on the road—sing! ¹¹ “At the sound of those who divide flocks among the watering places, There they shall recount the righteous deeds of the Lord, The righteous deeds for His*

peasantry in Israel. ¹⁹ “The kings came and fought; Then fought the kings of Canaan At Taanach near the waters of Megiddo; They took no plunder in silver. ²⁰ “The stars fought from heaven, From their courses they fought against Sisera. ²¹ “The torrent of Kishon swept them away, The ancient torrent, the torrent Kishon. O my soul, march on with strength. ²² “Then the horses’ hoofs beat From the dashing, the dashing of his valiant steeds.

- A. The battle is the Lord’s ultimately.
- B. It is He who gives the victory.

1 Corinthians 15:56–57 - ⁵⁶ *The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;* ⁵⁷ *but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

V. The Goodness of Evil Conquered and God’s People Preserved

²⁴ “Most blessed of women is Jael, The wife of Heber the Kenite; Most blessed is she of women in the tent. ²⁵ “He asked for water and she gave him milk; In a magnificent bowl she brought him curds. ²⁶ “She reached out her hand for the tent peg, And her right hand for the workmen’s hammer. Then she struck Sisera, she smashed his head; And she shattered and pierced his temple. ²⁷ “Between her feet he bowed, he fell, he lay; Between her feet he bowed, he fell; Where he bowed, there he fell dead. ²⁸ “Out of the window she looked and lamented, The mother of Sisera through the lattice, ‘Why does his chariot delay in coming? Why do the hoofbeats of his chariots tarry?’ ²⁹ “Her wise princesses would answer her, Indeed she repeats her words to herself, ³⁰ ‘Are they not finding, are they not dividing the spoil? A maiden, two maidens for every warrior; To Sisera a spoil of dyed work, A spoil of dyed work embroidered, Dyed work of double embroidery on the neck of the spoiler?’ ³¹ “Thus let all Your enemies perish, O Lord; But let those who love Him be like the rising of the sun in its might.” And the land was undisturbed for forty years.

- A. One day all our enemies will be defeated.
- B. We will be undisturbed by them... forever.