

Sermon Notes – May 1, 2016

Review

- ⇒ The book of Judges is a story about the _____ of mankind apart from God. When people do what is “_____” life gets very _____.
- ⇒ Last week we saw that God _____ to use the _____ and the _____ — even “left-handed” people.
- ⇒ We continue to be amazed at how regularly the nation of Israel “_____” in the sight of the Lord and served false gods. It’s hard to believe...until we look in the mirror and we see how quickly our own hearts pursue other pleasures than God Himself.

Today's Text: Read 4:1-10

- ⇒ Bible Study Hint: Be sure you connect each story in Judges to the _____ of the book, otherwise you’ll go astray in your application of the text.
- ⇒ BIG issue: What is going on in Barak’s _____?
Key verse: 9! It’s easier to stay on the sidelines & look important than to go into battle and risk great loss.
- ⇒ Let’s enjoy the story...READ 11-22 (& 5:4-5, 20-21)

God Promises Victory...but Not Without Obedience

- ⇒ The hero in the book of Judges is God; He uses people, but the victory is always His. (6-8)
- ⇒ NOTE: Sometimes obedience involves _____ for God’s timing rather than _____.
(II Chron. 20)

“Iron Chariots” Can Indeed Be Intimidating

- ⇒ “Chariots of iron” were cutting edge weapons; Barak has good reason to avoid confrontation — which apparently he has doing for some time now! (3)
- ⇒ Question: What “chariots of iron” are you afraid of?

Judges 4:1-5:31
Pastor Jay Mosser
The Subtle Danger of “I-Want-To-Be-Important”

It’s Not About General Barak; God Gets the Credit!

“God subdued Jabin” (4:23)

- ⇒ It has been widely said, “There is no _____ to what can be done if it doesn’t matter who gets the credit.”
- ⇒ Did Barak learn something? In 5:1 apparently he’s now on the worship team singing the praises of God...

Responding to God's Word

- ⇒ The desire to make a difference with your life: GOOD!
- ⇒ The *desire* to get the credit: BAD! (And don’t say, “MY heart isn’t like that”...that’ll make you a liar as well)
- ⇒ Jesus said: “For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.” (Luke 22:27)
- ⇒ “Gospel–humility means we can stop connecting every experience, every conversation with ourselves and can thus be free from self–condemnation. A truly gospel–humble person is not a self–hating person or a self–loving person, but a self–forgetful person.” (Keller)

Assignment: In your home, school, or your work place, what is one way you could serve this next week and receive NO credit whatsoever? (If people notice, it doesn’t count!)

- ⇒ Communion meditation: Luke 22:24-34