

inability to work with the team. Deborah had a vision of defeating King Jabin and his General Sisera. She enlisted the help of a skilled and well known leader named Barak. Together with Jael, the Israelites defeated King Jabin's army. How important is teamwork to you? Can you see how some people do not work well with others on a team? No matter their skill level, their actions can be very detrimental to the team's best efforts. What do you think? Write your thoughts here.

### Thursday, July 11

Read again, Judges 4:1-16. There is an element we haven't yet mentioned in our devotions for this week: Not only did Deborah, Barak, Jael and the Israelite army work well as a team, Deborah led the Israelites to know that God "goes out before them." So often we deal with challenges in our lives all on our own but God is with us! The story of Judge Deborah is a testimony in trusting God's leading and guidance. This guidance comes to us through our Scriptures, through prayer and through others in our faith community whom we trust. How do you feel God's presence and leading in your life? How as the counsel of Scripture and the community of faith helped you know God's presence? Write your thoughts here.

### Friday, July 12

Read Chapter 5 of Judges. These 31 verses are known as the Song of Deborah. Verse 31 states, "So perish all your enemies, O LORD! But may your friends be like the sun as it rises in its might." And the land had rest forty years." In other words Israel experienced peace after defeating King Jabin. Do you want to know rest and peace? Do you want help with the challenges in your life? Then put your trust in God first and in trusted leaders second and together discover rest and peace! Write your response to these ideas here.

## Message Notes – July 7, 2024

### *Women of the Bible*

#### *– Victorious Judge Deborah\**

- I. Laurel Thatcher Ulrich is a Professor Emerita from \_\_\_\_\_ University.
  - A. Ulrich is famous for the quote, "well-behaved women seldom make \_\_\_\_\_."
  - B. The story of Deborah, Barak and Jael is really more than just another "\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_" story.
  - C. In our story for today we have a female lead and the key to victory over the oppressor is found in \_\_\_\_\_.
- II. Deborah lived in the times of the "\_\_\_\_\_."
  - A. The 12 judges sought to deliver their people from out of the \_\_\_\_\_ rules of \_\_\_\_\_ kings who had conquered these inhabitants of Canaan, later called Israel.
  - B. Author, Edith Deen, writes, "For twenty years \_\_\_\_\_, King of Canaan, had oppressed the children of Israel. Their vineyards had been destroyed, their women dishonored, and their children slain. Many had turned to the worship of \_\_\_\_\_."
- III. Deborah was the wife of an obscure man named Lapdoth and she was the keeper of the tabernacle \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Deborah was a \_\_\_\_\_ to her people, a \_\_\_\_\_ in their disputes and ultimately a \_\_\_\_\_ in time of war.
  - B. Deborah's story is about her \_\_\_\_\_ of others to dig deep and confront the enemy with not only courage but with the knowledge that \_\_\_\_\_ is with them.

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\*Judges 4:1-16

- IV. Deborah summoned one of Israel's most capable military men, \_\_\_\_\_, from his home in Kedesh.
- Barak's response is precious and very \_\_\_\_\_: "If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go."
  - This has to be one of the most \_\_\_\_\_ passages in the Bible spoken by a man to a woman.
  - We're told in our scripture that Sisera's army was thrown into a panic by the \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Deborah and Barak and their army pushed through Sisera's army leaving not one of them \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Except for \_\_\_\_\_ – who fled and sought refuge in the tent of \_\_\_\_\_, the wife of Heber the Kenite.
    - Sisera, weary from the battle and defeat, fell asleep in that tent and Jael took a \_\_\_\_\_ and with it killed Sisera.
- V. Israel's victory didn't come about through \_\_\_\_\_.
- So I want to ask you, what chariot army is trying to convince you that you are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ rather than strong?
  - Judge Deborah is a fine example of the \_\_\_\_\_ life we can live if only we our God who goes out before us.

## *Daily Devotional Guide*

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

### **Monday, July 8**

It was mentioned that over 300 women are mentioned in our Christian Scriptures. Certainly this is a disproportionate number in comparison to the nearly 1,700 men mentioned in the Bible. Take stock of your own knowledge of the women in the Bible.

How many women of the Bible can you name? What do you know about these women? What attributes of the women you do know about in the Bible can you name? Strength? Beauty? Nurturing? Consider these questions and write your ideas here.

### **Tuesday, July 9**

Dr. Laurel Thatcher Ulrich is a Professor Emerita from Harvard University who specialized in Early American history of women. Ulrich is famous for the quote, "well-behaved women seldom make history," which has since taken on a life of its own and has been used on greeting cards, T-shirts, mugs, bumper stickers, and more. While the description "well behaved" might not be the true reason for women being mentioned in the Bible, certainly there is a sense of unexpected behavior that brought fame or notoriety to the Women in the Bible. What other famous, non-Biblical women do you admire? What do you know about their behavior or personality traits? Why are they well-known? Think about your expectations of women and why unexpected behavior would make them famous. Compare your thoughts about women's behavior with that of men. Does gender make a difference? Write your reflections here.

### **Wednesday, July 10**

Read Judges 4:1-16. In comparing Judge Deborah's story with that of King David slaying the giant, Goliath, there is a crucial difference in how Deborah and David operated in achieving their victory. David acted alone, although on behalf of his brothers and the Israelite army. Deborah's methods can be characterized best by the word "teamwork." Many are the stories of people who are not the best when it comes to teamwork over and against their individual efforts. Often the team suffers because of one person's