

Working Out the Truth

Judges 5:1-5

5 Then Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying, ² “That the leaders led in Israel, That the people volunteered, Bless the Lord! 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.

All creation abides by a simple principle: If God is on the move, then the creation must respond!

Judges 5:12-18

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.

The people of God, having survived tragedy, have come to terms with reality. Deborah’s “song” was a call to action.

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.

Amalekites (non-citizens) following Benjamin’s lead, a city of commanders, and local officials all found their courage.

¹⁵ “And the princes of Issachar *were* with Deborah; As *was* Issachar, so *was* Barak; Into the valley they rushed at his heels;

Even the princes- those accustomed to honor, luxury and comfort- joined the ranks to fight with the fighting men.

Most were simple people, untrained, and all were unlikely choices to take on such a rash and dangerous mission.

So where were the fighting men? The same snares that restrain us today restrained them.

Among the divisions of Reuben *There were* great resolves of heart.

The snare: “If I have the right convictions and beliefs, then I will eventually act on them- I’m just not sure when.”

Beware flawless planning, scheming, and talking that never gets around to doing anything!

“A good plan, violently executed now, is better than a perfect plan next week.” -General George S. Patton

¹⁶ “Why did you sit among the sheepfolds, To hear the piping for the flocks?

Why did you sit there all day and do nothing? Now the day is gone and nothing can be done! The moment has passed!

Among the divisions of Reuben *There were* great searchings of heart.

And indeed there will be time....

Time for you and time for me,

And time yet for a hundred indecisions

And for a hundred visions and revisions

Before the taking of a toast and tea...

Do I dare
Disturb the universe?

-T.S Elliot, *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*

The snare: "If I am busy considering all possibilities and outcomes, it is the same thing as doing something."

¹⁷ "Gilead remained across the Jordan; And why did Dan stay in ships? Asher sat at the seashore, And remained by its landings.

All of these who could have taken action sat passively by- they made excuses of their busyness, routines, and livelihoods.

But not all....

¹⁸ "Zebulun *was* a people who despised their lives *even* to death, And Naphtali also, on the high places of the field.

The spirit of the age in which we live is a pacifying spirit; it speaks the language of peace while it is at war with your soul.

A favorite mantra today is non-judgmentalism- no one should judge anyone else because we cannot know their hearts.

This has infected the church, causing us to cease to fear God and judge with righteous judgment, as Jesus taught.

"Don't judge me" is most often the mantra of those who show no discernable fear of God in the expression of their faith.

Because Jesus is highly exalted and we will give account to Him, godly fear must be the standard for the practice of our faith.

Ephesians 2:10¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Philippians 2:12-13 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

God planned the works that we should do, He inspires the desire to do them, and coordinates them in real time!

Forget what people may think! Ask God to make your path clear, and then live your life before His face always.