

## SERMON OUTLINE

<b>SERMON TITLE:</b>	Sin Cannot Win, and Faith Cannot Fail
<b>SERMON REFERENCE:</b>	Judges 4:1-10
<b>LWF SERMON NUMBER:</b>	#1802

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Sin cannot win; faith cannot fail.
- b) Judges 4:1, 3
  - i) It seemed that the children of Israel could never learn.
    - (1) They went through a cycle of rebellion, retribution, repentance, restoration, and then back into rebellion.
    - (2) They were eating the fruit of their own deeds, and they would get into trouble.
  - ii) God raised up an enemy, the king of Canaan.
    - (1) God had given Canaan to the children of Israel, yet here was a wicked king.
    - (2) He had an army.
      - (a) The general's name was Sisera.
      - (b) He had nine hundred chariots of iron.
  - iii) The children of Israel cried unto the Lord, and God did help.
    - (1) God had rather forgive than judge.
- c) God wants to bless America.
  - i) God blessed His people in this day, who were so much like America today.
    - (1) We sin against God.
    - (2) We get into trouble.
    - (3) We say, "God, help."
    - (4) God is a God of mercy.
- d) In today's message, we will look at the story of Deborah and Barak and see how sin cannot win, and faith cannot fail.

2) THE WOMAN GOD CHOSE (JUDGES 1:4-7)

- a) The name "Deborah" means "bee", like a honey bee.
- b) God chose a woman to help deliver Israel.
  - i) Her name was Deborah.
  - ii) She was a prophetess.
    - (1) Judges 1:4
- c) There were women prophets in the Bible called "prophetesses".
  - i) Miriam, sister of Moses, was a prophetess.
    - (1) Exodus 15:20
  - ii) Huldah was a prophetess.
    - (1) 2 Kings 22:14
  - iii) In the New Testament, Anna, who held the baby Jesus in her arms, was a prophetess.
    - (1) Luke 2:36
  - iv) In the book of Acts, there was a man named Philip who had four daughters, and all of them were prophetesses.
    - (1) Acts 21:8-9
- d) God gave to these women supernatural wisdom.

- i) This did not mean that they had taken over the government of the country or that they were pastors in churches.
  - ii) They were what the Bible calls a “Mother in Israel”.
    - (1) Judges 5:7
      - (a) This is what Deborah called herself.
        - (i) God had given her wisdom.
  - e) There may be some modern-day prophetesses, or women who had the Spirit of God:
    - i) Henrietta Mears wrote the book *What the Bible Is All About*.
      - (1) She was the prophetess who spoke to and led Bill Bright, who founded the Campus Crusade for Christ.
        - (a) She was to Bill Bright what Deborah was to Barak.
          - (i) She enthused his life with power.
    - ii) Beverly LaHaye had a great influence upon America.
      - (1) God gave her the courage and wisdom to speak to her generation.
    - iii) God gave Corrie Ten Boom incredible wisdom, courage, and insight.
      - (1) Many lives have been blessed by her.
    - iv) Ms. Berth Smith was one of Southern Baptists’ finest missionaries.
      - (1) She was a woman who had been with God.
    - v) Fanny Crosby wrote many hymns that are sung in churches every Sunday.
    - vi) This is a fulfillment of Acts 2:17-18.
  - f) The Bible does say that a woman is not to usurp authority over the man.
    - i) 1 Timothy 2:11-12
    - ii) But thank God for the ministry of godly women; for the Deborah’s in the land and for the ladies who love and serve God with incredible power.
- 3) THE WARRIOR GOD CALLED (JUDGES 4:8-9)
- a) The man whom God used was a man full of faith.
    - i) Hebrews 11:32-33
      - (1) The writer of the book of Hebrews called the roll of the faithful.
        - (a) They were great heroes of the faith.
      - (2) Barak subdued kingdoms by faith.
        - (a) What happened was so notable that the writer of Hebrews called Barak “a mighty man of faith”.
    - b) We have a woman of wisdom (Deborah) and a man of faith (Barak).
      - i) The woman was chosen.
      - ii) The man was called.
        - (1) What a mighty team they were!
    - c) The origin of his faith:
      - i) The origin of Barak’s faith was the Word of God.
        - (1) Judges 4:6
      - ii) Where does faith come from?
        - (1) Romans 10:17
          - (a) Faith is hearing God and believing God.

- d) The object of his faith:
    - i) His faith was in the Lord God of Israel.
      - (1) Judges 4:6
    - ii) People say to just have faith and to just believe.
      - (1) But have faith in what? Believe what?
        - (a) You cannot have faith unless it is faith in God.
    - iii) The origin of our faith is the Word of God; the object of our faith is the God of the Word.
    - iv) Mark 11:22
      - (1) Faith is not positive thinking.
        - (a) That is faith in faith.
      - (2) Faith is not believing that you can do it.
        - (a) That is faith in yourself.
      - (3) Have faith in God.
  - e) The operation of his faith:
    - i) Judges 4:8
    - ii) Faith is hearing from God, trusting in God, and obeying God.
    - iii) Deborah, a prophetess, said, "This is what God said."
      - (1) Barak heard it.
      - (2) The Lord God had said it.
      - (3) Barak believed it.
      - (4) Barak said, "I will go."
        - (a) Judges 4:8
    - iv) What is the difference between belief and faith?
      - (1) Faith is belief with legs on it.
        - (a) It is a verb more than a noun.
        - (b) It is believing God, trusting God, and obeying God.
- 4) THE WONDER GOD CAUSED (JUDGES 4:10, 14-15)
- a) Sin cannot win; faith cannot fail.
    - i) Some people are thinking about caving in, going over to the enemy, or giving it up.
      - (1) There is doubt in their mind.
        - (a) Doubt sees the obstacles, but faith sees the way.
        - (b) Doubt sees the darkest night, but faith sees the day.
        - (c) Doubt dreads to take a step, but faith soars on high.
        - (d) Doubt says, "Who believes?"
          - (i) Faith answers, "I."
  - b) Judges 4:10, 14-15
    - i) Israel had an army of ten thousand.
      - (1) Had we been there that day, we never would have chosen sides with Israel had we not believed God.
        - (a) It would have been like a division of infantry going up against a division of armored tanks.

- ii) Sisera had an army with nine hundred chariots of iron.
  - (1) Doubtless, Sisera, the general of the king of Canaan, was sure of the outcome.
    - (a) He knew that his chariots were superior.
    - (b) He knew that his army was better.
    - (c) He knew that his record was untarnished.
- iii) Sisera failed.
  - (1) His trust was in the wrong place.
    - (a) Psalm 20:7
- c) Sisera had nine hundred chariots that he thought would give him the victory, but what happened that day was that God moved in.
  - i) Judges 5:4-5
    - (1) This is a poem that tells about the victory.
      - (a) Deborah is singing this song.
  - ii) Judges 5:20-21
  - iii) At the foot of Mount Tabor, not far from where the Battle of Armageddon will be fought, Sisera came with his chariots ready to do war.
  - iv) Sisera thought it would be easy, but then something happened.
    - (1) Judges 5:4
      - (a) It began to rain.
    - (2) There was a mudslide.
      - (a) Judges 5:5
        - (i) "The mountains melted."
    - (3) There was a river that looked like a small river (the Brook Kishon), and it began to overflow.
    - (4) The entire battlefield turned to mud.
  - v) Josephus, the historian, gives an account of what happened:
    - (1) There came a blinding rain storm that moved in the direction from which Sisera's army came.
      - (a) The rain was right in the face of his charioteers.
    - (2) It was a cold rain.
      - (a) Their clothes were soaked.
      - (b) Their arms became numb.
    - (3) The chariots' wheels bogged down.
    - (4) God gave the victory.
  - vi) Judges 5:20
    - (1) "*The stars in their courses fought against Sisera.*"
      - (a) Sisera didn't have a chance because God gave the victory.
- d) The whole universe is against the person who is against God.
  - i) God has programmed every molecule to the highest heavens against sin.
  - ii) Don't get the idea that you can sin successfully or that you can trust in God in vain.
    - (1) Sin cannot win, and faith cannot fail.
- e) God lined the stars up behind Barak.

- i) The whole universe is behind the person who is for God.
    - (1) Satan sails a sinking ship, and he rules a doomed domain.
  - f) Psalm 20:7
  - g) Success is finding out which way God is moving and joining Him.
    - i) If we don't join Him, then we will have a head on collision with the stars.
      - (1) Rome thought that she had conquered everything.
        - (a) But when Pilate judged Jesus guilty and crucified Him, Rome had a collision with the stars.
      - (2) When God called Moses to lead His people out of Egypt, Pharaoh would not let Moses do it.
        - (a) Pharaoh made a mistake.
        - (b) Pharaoh should have found out which way God was moving and joined Him.
        - (c) God drowned Pharaoh's army in the Red Sea.
      - (3) Napoleon marched on Moscow with half a million, handpicked soldiers.
        - (a) He thought he would have Moscow, and then he would have the world.
        - (b) But mountains of snow fell, and the soldiers were frozen on the plains of Russia.
        - (c) Napoleon had boasted that God was on the side of the heaviest battalions.
          - (i) He forgot that God stations His battalion in the skies.
            - 1. The course of history was changed because there was a man who had a collision with the stars.
  - h) Romans 8:28
    - i) Things may seem bad, and we may not be able to understand it.
      - (1) But behind it all, God is working all things after the purpose of His will.
        - (a) God is the sovereign God of the universe.
          - (i) Not a snowflake falls without His permission.
    - ii) All things work together for bad to those who don't love God.
      - (1) Sisera had a mighty army and chariots.
        - (a) He thought everything was coming out good, but his good was bad.
- 5) CONCLUSION
- a) Sometimes, it may look like you're failing and that God has forgotten, and the devil is on his throne.
    - i) But this chapter in Judges tells us that sin cannot win, and faith cannot fail.
  - b) Have faith in God.
    - i) He cannot fail.
    - ii) He must prevail.
  - c) The same God who has programmed the planets to produce undefeatable tides is the God who has programmed your life.

- d) Do as Barak did:
  - i) Hear the Word of God.
  - ii) Believe the God of that Word.
  - iii) Live by it.
- e) God lines up the universe behind the person who lines up with God.
  - i) All things work together for bad to those who refuse God.
- f) The life of faith begins with a step of faith.
  - i) That step of faith is to believe in Jesus Christ and trust Him as your Lord and Savior.
  - ii) You are not saved by joining a church or living a good life.
  - iii) You are saved by giving your heart to Jesus and believing on Him.
    - (1) Romans 5:1
    - (2) Acts 16:31
- g) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- h) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) John 3:16