

Honor Will Not Be Yours!

Scripture Reading: Judges 4&5

Have you ever been afraid...? After Joshua, the people of Israel served the Lord God alone and followed His commandments according to the decision they had taken. But their children followed after that which was filthy and evil. They remembered not the mighty deeds of God that were performed towards their fathers.

The Canaanites under the influence of Sisera, the commander of army, cruelly oppressed the Israelites and drove them out of their cities. The Israelites trembled at the cruelty of his soldiers. In this manner, Sisera ruled the northern part of Israel.

There were remnants in Israel who still trusted the Lord. Deborah was one among those who worshipped the Lord faithfully. She loved God and desired to do His will. God chose her because of her faith and decided to save the people of Israel through her.

God revealed to Deborah the strategy by which Sisera could be defeated. She revealed that strategy to Barak, a soldier. Barak believed that this task was given by God. Nevertheless, looking at the iron chariots and cruel soldiers of Sisera compared to the ten thousand men he had, Barak was afraid. Deborah trusted God wholeheartedly and was never afraid. Barak trusted Deborah more than trusting God and therefore told her that he will go to war only if she would accompany him. She agreed to his request and also told him that he would not receive any honor for the victory that they will have, because he did not wholeheartedly trust God.

The earth was shaken, heavens poured out rain and all the horses and the chariots that were in the valley were struck because of the slush caused by the rain. The horses lost their balance and could not move forward. The army of Sisera was defeated. Meanwhile, Sisera fled on foot for his life. Many of his soldiers were washed away by the flood that was caused by the river Kishon. All of this happened according to that which the Lord had spoken to Deborah. It is better to trust in God rather than trusting man. Man is always vulnerable to cheat and change, but God is a never changing God. He will keep his word and fulfill all that He's promised to those who trust Him.

Questions:

1. Why did God choose Deborah to save the people of Israel?
2. Barak had no honor for winning the battle. Why?
3. What will God do to those who trust Him?