

“Going Beyond: Deborah”

Series: *.beyond*

(Part 2 of 5)

Discussion Starter: Apart from your mother (or wife), who is the greatest woman you have ever met?

Explore: Read Mark 12:41-43.

There were thirteen trumpet-shaped chests around the walls of the courtyard where offerings were given in the temple. One day, Jesus chose to sit and watch the crowds as they made contributions to the church.

1. Why do you believe Jesus purposely sat near the temple treasury with His disciples (vs. 41)? What did He see?
2. What do the “rich people’s” actions tell us about their motivation for giving (vs. 41)?
3. How much money did the poor widow put into the temple treasury (vs. 42)? What thoughts might the people at the temple have had as they watched the woman in this story (vs. 42)?
4. For what reason, do you believe this story is included in the Bible (vs. 43)? What principles can we apply to our own lives?

Reflect: Review the LG and discuss the questions below.

1. During the period of the Judges, the Israelites entered a cycle of sin and oppression before crying out to God in desperation. Discuss reasons spiritual drift can still happen today.
2. God called Deborah to lead the Israelites out from under the cruelty of the Canaanites. What fears or opposition do you think she may have faced?
3. Despite suffering for twenty years, Deborah did not doubt God would lead the Israel nation to victory. Where are you when it comes to having confidence and faith in God? In what area of life do you need to step out and trust Him?
4. Read Judges 4:12-14. How meaningful do you believe Deborah’s words were to Barak? Who can you speak words of truth and encouragement to this week?
5. What quality of Deborah’s would you most like to develop in your own life? What can you do this week to begin to move beyond yourself?

Live:

As a group: Sub-group into smaller groups (guys & gals). The Israelites went through several cycles of sin, oppression, crying out to God, and rescue. When do you have a tendency to drift away from the Lord? How can we encourage one another in this area?

On your own: Read through the story of Deborah this week (Judges 4-5). Reflect on the key points from the lesson and ask yourself, “*How does God want to use me through the .beyond campaign?*”

Listening Guide Notes

“After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel.” –**Judges 2:10 (NIV)**

^[1] “After Ehud died, the Israelites once again did evil in the eyes of the LORD.

^[2] So the LORD sold them into the hands of Jabin, a king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth Haggoyim. ^[3] Because he had nine hundred iron chariots and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the LORD for help.” –**Judges 4:1-3 (NIV)**

Start within to go beyond...

1. By being worthy _____.

^[4] “Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time.

^[5] She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came to her to have their disputes decided.” –**Judges 4:4-5 (NIV)**

2. By planning _____.

^[6] “She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, ‘The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you: ‘Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead the way to Mount Tabor. ^[7] I will lure Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands.’” –**Judges 4:6-7 (NIV)**

3. By leading _____.

^[8] “Barak said to her, ‘If you go with me, I will go; but if you don’t go with me, I won’t go.’ ^[9] ‘Very well,’ Deborah said, ‘I will go with you. But because of the way you are going about this, the honor will not be yours, for the LORD will hand Sisera over to a woman.’ So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh, ^[10] where he summoned Zebulun and Naphtali. Ten thousand men followed him, and Deborah also went with him.” –**Judges 4:8-10 (NIV)**

4. By giving away _____.

^[12] “When they told Sisera that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, ^[13] Sisera gathered together his nine hundred iron chariots and all the men with him, from Harosheth Haggoyim to the Kishon River. ^[14] Then Deborah said to Barak, ‘Go! This is the day the LORD has given Sisera into your hands. Has not the LORD gone ahead of you?’ So Barak went down Mount Tabor, followed by ten thousand men. ^[15] At Barak’s advance, the LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword, and Sisera abandoned his chariot and fled on foot. ^[16] But Barak pursued the chariots and army as far as Harosheth Haggoyim. All the troops of Sisera fell by the sword; not a man was left.” –**Judges 4:12-16 (NIV)**

“But Jael, Heber’s wife, picked up a tent peg and a hammer and went quietly to him while he lay fast asleep, exhausted. She drove the peg through his temple into the ground, and he died.” –**Judges 4:21 (NIV)**

5. By giving honor _____.

“Then the land had peace forty years.” –**Judges 5:31b (NIV)**