

Elevation Sermon notes - The Weapons Are In The House - Pastor Robert Madu

June 22, 2025

Sermon Highlights

- You don't get to choose who God will use, because God will use whoever He wants.
- Be who God called you to be!
- Despite being scared, Barak still took a step of faith. You can be faithful and still have some fear.
- As long as the Lord is marching ahead of you, that's all you need.
- Don't let what you don't have make you forget about what you do have.
- It doesn't always make sense, but when it works, it shows God was before you.
- Work what's in your bag.
- This is your season to be strategic.
- There are things you're doing right now that you don't even realize are practice.
- Don't disqualify yourself, because He's already gone before you.

Scriptures

- Judges 4:1-9 - Deborah went with Barak to Kadesh
- Judges 4:17-22 - Jael kills Sisera
- Judges 4:14 NLT - The Lord is marching ahead of you
- Hebrews 11:32 - Barak took a step of faith
- Judges 5:4 - God can use the rain

Judges 4: Deborah and Barak

4 And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord after Ehud died. 2 And the Lord sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-hagoyim. 3 Then the people of Israel cried out to the Lord for help, for he had 900 chariots of iron and he oppressed the people of Israel cruelly for twenty years.

4 Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. 5 She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the people of Israel came up to her for judgment. 6 She sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali and said to him, "Has not the Lord, the God of Israel, commanded you, 'Go, gather your men at Mount Tabor, taking 10,000 from the people

of Naphtali and the people of Zebulun. 7 And I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the river Kishon with his chariots and his troops, and I will give him into your hand?" 8 Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go." 9 And she said, "I will surely go with you. Nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh. 10 And Barak called out Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh. And 10,000 men went up at his heels, and Deborah went up with him.

11 Now Heber the Kenite had separated from the Kenites, the descendants of Hobab the father-in-law of Moses, and had pitched his tent as far away as the oak in Zaanannim, which is near Kedesh. 12 When Sisera was told that Barak the son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, 13 Sisera called out all his chariots, 900 chariots of iron, and all the men who were with him, from Harosheth-hagoyim to the river Kishon. 14 And Deborah said to Barak, "Up! For this is the day in which the Lord has given Sisera into your hand. Does not the Lord go out before you?" So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with 10,000 men following him. 15 And the Lord routed Sisera and all his chariots and all his army before Barak by the edge of the sword. And Sisera got down from his chariot and fled away on foot. 16 And Barak pursued the chariots and the army to Harosheth-hagoyim, and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; not a man was left.

17 But Sisera fled away on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, for there was peace between Jabin the king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite. 18 And Jael came out to meet Sisera and said to him, "Turn aside, my lord; turn aside to me; do not be afraid." So he turned aside to her into the tent, and she covered him with a rug. 19 And he said to her, "Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty." So she opened a skin of milk and gave him a drink and covered him. 20 And he said to her, "Stand at the opening of the tent, and if any man comes and asks you, 'Is anyone here?' say, 'No.'" 21 But Jael the wife of Heber took a tent peg, and took a hammer in her hand. Then she went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple until it went down into the ground while he was lying fast asleep from weariness. So he died. 22 And behold, as Barak was pursuing Sisera, Jael went out to meet him and said to him, "Come, and I will show you the man whom you are seeking." So he went in to her tent, and there lay Sisera dead, with the tent peg in his temple.

Notes About Judges - The book of Judges shows a cycle of sin:

- Israel does evil in God's sight ->
- God allows Israel to be taken captive ->

- Israel cries out to God ->
- God raises a judge to deliver Israel ->
- Israel does evil in God's sight ->

Sermon Discussion

- "Work what's in your bag." What's something you've been working toward, and what has God already put in your bag to help you get there?
- "There are things you're doing right now that you don't even realize are practice." Share about something that used to feel mundane, but later you realized that it prepared you for something in the future?
- "You don't get to choose who God will use, because God will use whoever He wants." Who's someone God used in your life that you never saw coming?
- "You can be faithful and still have some fear." What's the step that you know you need to take this week, even if it's a little scary?

Prayer Prompt: Pastor Robert Madu said, "Don't disqualify yourself, because He's already gone before you." What's coming up this week that you need to trust God's already gone before you in? Thank God that He chooses whoever He wants to use. We ask for courage this week, as each person faces things they may be nervous about. In spite of any fears, we ask God for the strength to take "shaky" steps of faith. When we feel like disqualifying ourselves, ask God to remind us He has chosen us for a reason.

AI generated sermon notes and recap:

Celebrating Miracles and God's Unlikely Heroes

Jun 22, 2025 • 50:12 minutes

Introduction - The speaker expresses gratitude for salvation and the miracles in life, urging attendees to praise Jesus for their transformations and victories.

Key Themes

- The greatness of God is acknowledged not only for His mighty deeds but also for His care for the smallest details of our lives.

- The importance of community and affirmation among attendees is highlighted with encouragement to greet each other.
- Acknowledgment of the church's 20 years of faithful leadership and honoring the pastors is emphasized.

Biblical Context: The sermon focuses on Judges 4, particularly the story of Deborah and Jael, illustrating God's ability to use anyone for His purpose.

Main Message: The key message is that God can use anyone regardless of societal expectations or stereotypes, emphasizing that "You don't get to choose who God will use," reinforcing the notion that God's choice transcends human understanding.

Story of Deborah and Jael

Deborah, a female judge and prophet, is presented as a leader who galvanizes Israel's army against oppression. Jael's unexpected act of heroism illustrates that God can choose unassuming individuals to fulfill divine plans.

Conclusion

- The narrative highlights that God's weapons are always within reach and that believers should recognize their potential and responsibility to act, using the examples from scripture to encourage faith and action.
- As the sermon concludes, it invites attendees to reflect on their own lives and the unique ways God may be calling them to make an impact.