



February 1, 2015

Step Up...Don't Hesitate! **Judges 4:1-16**

Introduction

Barak hesitated carrying out what God asked Him to do. There have been other examples of individuals recorded in scripture who hesitated also. It seems apparent that our human nature questions God's direction at times and we are hesitant to follow his commands. In Barak's situation he asked Deborah, the fourth and only female judge of Israel for assistance in leading the charge against Sisera. We can use this story recorded in the Old Testament to step up and do the hard things.

Discussion

1. Barak was way over his head. Review Judges 4 and explain to the best of your knowledge, the situation Barak was in. What are the benefits of clearly defining a situation a person may encounter? How may this be helpful if a person is to move forward?
2. The word hesitate means to hold back in doubt or indecision; to delay momentarily; uncertainty. What is it about a person that sometimes causes them to be hesitant? Is it ever a good thing to hesitate? If so, when? If not, why?
3. Barak hesitated in part because he didn't think God's plan was adequate. Have you ever felt that way and what was your reason? What should a person do when God's plan doesn't seem like enough?
4. Jesus called out to them, "Come be my disciples, and I will show you how to fish for people!" And they left their nets at once and went with him. (Mark 1:17-18) What is the difference between Barak's call to battle and the disciples call to follow Jesus? Which one is more difficult and why?
5. Then Deborah said to Barak, "Get ready! Today the Lord will give you victory over Sisera, for the Lord is marching ahead of you." (Judges 4:14) Share a time in your life when you or someone you know didn't hesitate to respond to God and you/they demonstrated the confidence of Deborah. How did you feel? What were the results?
6. How did this story inspire you to trust God more and seek to quickly obey His calls when they come? Is God moving you to do something in your life that you're hesitating to do? If so, what would it take to trust God more?

Conclusion

Barak received his word from God through Deborah. Jesus Christ is greater than the Old Testament priesthood and we have his word to depend upon. "That is why we have a great High Priest who has gone to heaven, Jesus the Son of God. Let us cling to him and never stop trusting him. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptations we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy and we will find grace to help us when we need it." (Hebrews 4:14-16)

What are some consequences of not trusting God? What are some positive outcomes of trusting God?