



DATE	July 17, 2016
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	Death By Tent Peg
SERIES	The book of Judges contains some of the strangest stories you'll ever hear. These unusual stories are entertaining, confusing, dramatic and even a bit crazy. But they also contain deep spiritual insights and truths. You can't make this stuff up!

Introduction:

The over-arching theme from today's message is when leaders lead, miracles happen. It examines the Old Testament Judge Deborah and her leadership influence on the nation of Israel.

1. In today's message we learned that Israel had a history of drifting away from God and then returning to him. Can you share a time when you drifted away from God? What do you think caused it and what brought you back? What did the experience teach you about God's love, grace and mercy?
2. David Smith said faith is...
 - Listening to God at every turn
 - Showing courage in the face of overwhelming odds
 - Being humble and not seeking your own glory

In what ways have you experienced this truth? Discuss scripture passages or other examples in the Bible that also support these truths. (possible examples: Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac, David facing Goliath, Apostle Paul's humility in sharing the Gospel.)

3. David Smith said "We lose our advantage in life when we drift away from God." Discuss what you think these advantages might entail and what the loss of them means.
4. David Smith said that, "Simple obedience can mean the difference between bondage and freedom". What makes us choose disobedience over obedience? Why do we choose bondage over freedom? Does *simple obedience* mean it's easy? Discuss your thoughts on that.
5. David Smith said "when we are out of options, God always takes us back". Review the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). How do you think it demonstrate this principle? Can you think of others? What are some times in your life that God has used your brokenness and lack of other options to bring you back to Him?
6. Sometimes leadership is leading one – or two – or a family – to a Christ centered life. How do we demonstrate this type of leadership in the lives of others by our...
 - Words
 - Actions
 - Attitudes
7. Read Zechariah 4:6. What applications do you think this verse has for today's story?
8. It appears that our culture today is in moral decay. And yet scripture encourages us to stand firm. In what ways do you think Christ-followers can provide Godly leadership in our contemporary culture?

Conclusion: Deborah led with wisdom and character rather than might. She was the only judge in all of Judges that didn't pick up a sword but led through wise counsel. God calls us to lead in different ways. As you reflect on today's message, consider what areas of leadership God is calling you to.