

Judges 4:1-3 Faith or Fear?

1/11/09 - The Exchange

- I. Series reminder overview. I have decided... Trust. Not just for salvation but for everything in your live you can and can't control.
- II. This is not...
 - A. Not going to be the definitive "women in leadership" study.
 - B. Not going to get hung up on geography and names
 - C. It is going to be a look at what it means to trust God, what it means to hear from God, and how God will do what He is going to do with or without you.
- III. 4:1 Sin
- IV. 4:2 Servitude
 - A. Jabin - Leader of a confederation of city states. Hazor is north of the Sea of Galilee.
 - B. Sisera - Commander of Hazor's army. Harosheth Hagoyim (of the Gentiles) located west of the Sea of G, close to the coast, by the valley of Megiddo.
- V. 4:3 Supplication
 - A. cried out - for help, in distress or need. Why? What motivated?
 - B. 900 chariots - 5% of one's army means army of 18,000.
 1. Scary! Israel had nothing like it, only swords and farm tools.
 2. God told Deborah to tell Barak to go deal with it, he didn't.
 3. Why not? Doesn't say. Every decision for God's people comes down to faith or fear.
 4. Their cry for help in distress and need has it's foundation in a lack of faith or trust in God. That's what we're going to explore.
 - C. Reminder; every generation, every individual needs their own faith-building experiences with God. Stories are great, faith becomes personal and more powerful with personal experience.
- VI. Why don't we trust God?
 - A. We think the situation is impossible so we give up on everything. Israel in the wilderness. "That's it!"
 - B. We don't currently have the resources to deal with the situation and we think it's too late. This situation in Judges 4:3. "If only... I could have..."
 - C. We have found something else that appears to meet the need. What if Israel made deals with other peoples to fight for them? Us going to something else to meet the need. Teacher or stripper? Car salesman or drug dealer?
 - D. We have the resources to deal with the situation. When you don't need to trust God, you don't. Israel at Ai. Us being self sufficient, not seeing that everything we have comes from God anyway. Rev. 3:17.
 - E. We don't recognize that there is a need. This is what leads to the spiral from salvation back into sin. This is how they got here. This is why people don't trust in Jesus. GOSPEL.
- VII. What is going on now that challenges our trust, causes us to act with faith or fear?
 - A. For me: youth pastor thing, Jonah's leg, this position here.

- B. Y2K, Y2012 and solar storm threat.
- C. World economic crisis. Personal economic crisis! Blood lab bill collector story.
- D. Middle east tensions and potential ramifications.
- E. The weather, freezing, flooding, need I go on?
- F. Some things we have control over. Some things we have zero control over. In any case, what can we do to operate out of faith and not fear?

VIII. Faith not fear

- A. Know in advance that trouble is always going to come, and that God is with you if you are with Him. That way you won't be surprised or freaked out when it comes. Deuteronomy 20:1.
 - B. Change your view of trouble from something that bring fear to something that brings you closer to the Lord. Psalm 9:9-10, Matt. 6:31-34.
 - C. Don't let fear of the trouble motivate your preparation for it. Let faith motivate your procession through it. Psalm 20.
 - 1. Bad : "fearful watchmen" mentality. Fear with righteous motives is servitude.
 - 2. God doesn't deliver His people from the trouble, He delivers them through it. Noah, Abe, Joseph, Daniel, on and on.
 - 3. Double meaning of "through", gets them to the other side of it, and they come out stronger/refined and closer to the Lord on the other side.
- IX. What are your 900 chariots? With what are you having trouble trusting the creator and sustainer of the universe? It's never to late to start trusting Him now and allowing Him to use this to bring you closer to Him.