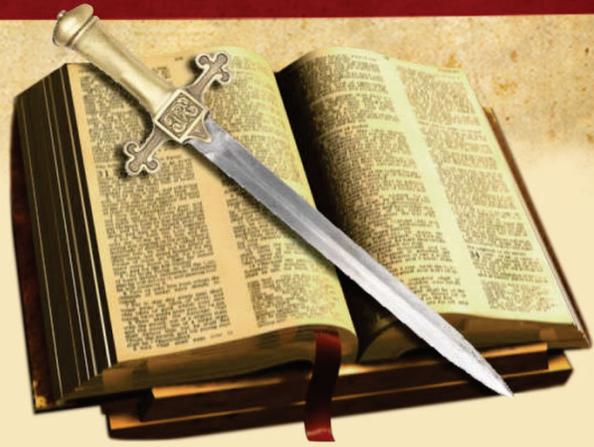


Setting Your Heart

on the

Kingdom



JUDGES

Who Said Women Can't Lead?

(The Principle of Men and Women Leading Together)

Judges 4 - 5

There was an eerie quietness across the plain at the River Kishon. It was like the calm before the storm. Suddenly, on the horizon, there appeared a thin dark line accompanied by distant clouds of dust. The silence of the morning was broken by the faint thunder of hooves that grew progressively louder. It was Sisera, commander of the Canaanite army...fully armed with nine hundred iron chariots and thousands of warriors charging toward the outnumbered Israelite army! Had it not been for the confidence of the presiding judge of Israel, the captain of the Hebrew forces, Barak, would not have agreed to fight. Had it not been for the prophetic gift resident within this judge, they would not have known the word of the Lord that promised victory. ***This great judge, credited with the defeat of Sisera, was Deborah...the first woman leader of Israel!***

Following the death of Joshua, the judges were the only points of authority in Israel. There was no king or centralized government. However, God would anoint judges, as the occasion required. They would hear from heaven and deliver Israel when they sinned. Deborah was such a person. ***The story of Deborah and Barak demonstrates a powerful principle of the Kingdom of God...evil is overcome by the synergy of men and women working together.*** The issue is not which one is "in charge." It takes the leadership of both, working as a unified force, to subdue evil on earth (Gen. 1:26-28).

How many times have you heard women referred to as the "weaker vessels?" Weaker in strength, perhaps, but certainly not in spiritual gifts or authority against Satan's kingdom. If God so chooses to deposit powerful leadership gifts in women...how will you respond if you are a man? Will you pridefully refuse to listen to God's counsel if He speaks through a woman? If you are wise, you'll do as Barak did...recognize God's anointing and follow (Judges 4:6-8)! ***Remember, in God's Kingdom, there is no discrimination against men or women (Gal. 3:27-29). Together you represent the full counsel of God...no matter who leads. But if you are divided, you will certainly fail.***

Next Week: The Kingdom of God in Ruth... From the Despised to the Destined!

