

Take Action!

Sunday Morning, November 2, 2014

Thesis:

Take Action in God's Plan for Your Life. Be Confident in His Wisdom and Power, So That He Would Receive Glory!

Introduction: Object Lesson - (Luke 1:37)

For with God nothing will be impossible

I. Move on God's Behalf

Summary of Judges Chapter 4 - Verses 1 - 5

Jabin King of Canaan and Sisera the Commander of his army were oppressing Israel. Israel then cried out to the Lord for help. Deborah was a prophetess and judge in Israel at that time.

(Judges 4: 6- 7, 14 – 16)

6 Then she sent and called for Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "Has not the Lord God of Israel commanded, 'Go and deploy troops at Mount Tabor; take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun;

7 and against you I will deploy Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude at the River Kishon; and I will deliver him into your hand'?"

14 Then Deborah said to Barak, "Up! For this is the day in which the Lord has delivered Sisera into your hand. Has not the Lord gone out before you?" So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand men following him.

15 And the Lord routed Sisera and all his chariots and all his army with the edge of the sword before Barak; and Sisera alighted from his chariot and fled away on foot.

(More of Passage on the next page)

16 But Barak pursued the chariots and the army as far as Harosheth Hagoyim, and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; not a man was left.

After the battle, Deborah sings a song and it she tells what the Lord thinks about those who did not respond to His call after He had already promised them victory.

(Judges 5:23)

'Curse Meroz,' said the angel of the Lord, 'Curse its inhabitants bitterly, Because they did not come to the help of the Lord, To the help of the Lord against the mighty.'

Be confident in God's Word, God's Will, God's Work, and God's Way. Don't stay on the mountain!

II. Seek the Wisdom of God

(Judges 7: 1 – 8)

1 Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him rose early and encamped beside the well of Harod, so that the camp of the Midianites was on the north side of them by the hill of Moreh in the valley.

2 And the Lord said to Gideon, "The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.'

3 Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, 'Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead.'" And twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained.

(More of Passage on the next page)

4 But the Lord said to Gideon, "The people are still too many; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. Then it will be, that of whom I say to you, 'This one shall go with you,' the same shall go with you; and of whomever I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' the same shall not go."

5 So he brought the people down to the water. And the Lord said to Gideon, "Everyone who laps from the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set apart by himself; likewise everyone who gets down on his knees to drink."

6 And the number of those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was three hundred men; but all the rest of the people got down on their knees to drink water.

7 Then the Lord said to Gideon, "By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the other people go, every man to his place."

8 So the people took provisions and their trumpets in their hands. And he sent away all the rest of Israel, every man to his tent, and retained those three hundred men. Now the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

Summary of Judges Chapter 8

Gideon's army continues to pursue the fleeing Midianites, led by their kings Zebah and Zalmunna. They pass through the towns of Succoth and Penuel, and both refuse to give food to Gideon's army. Gideon promises he'll make them pay when he's done with Zebah and Zalmunna. His army defeats Midian and captures Z & Z. On their way back, returns to Penuel and breaks down their tower and kills the men of the city.

"Every Christian should be working towards some godly goal that it is so outrageous it can only be accomplished through God's strength."

Dr. David Jeremiah

III. Engage in God's Will With Confidence

Summary of Joshua 3: 1-13

Joshua and the Israelites pack up their gear and head toward the Jordan River as they prepare for their big water crossing. They set up camp for the night and Joshua tells Israel that they must sanctify themselves. Also, heads up Israelites—you are to follow the Ark of the Covenant at a distance of two thousand cubits. God says to Joshua "This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so that they may know that I will be with you as I was with Moses". As Israel is preparing to cross the Jordan, one man from each tribe is selected to carry the Ark into the water. The Jordan River is in flood at this point in time, otherwise this wouldn't be so impressive.

(Joshua 3: 14 – 17)

14 So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, 15 and as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest), 16 that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho.

17 Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan.

What is Your Jordan?

What is Your Barrier?

What Seems Impossible for You to Accomplish?

"Often, God will give us victory--if we step out in faith to do our part."

Jim Cymbala

Conclusion:

Take Action in God's Plan for Your Life.
Be Confident in His Wisdom and Power,
So That He Would Receive Glory!

Invitation & Lord's Supper

(Matthew 26: 26 – 29)

²⁶ And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

²⁷ Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you."

²⁸ For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

²⁹ But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."