

MAY 1

Deborah ~ Hebrew name meaning “Bee”

Judges 4 and 5

Prophetic Woman and Judge

By Sista Joann Henriques

Imagine God calling you for His purpose and one of your gifts was to give wise counsel to a rebellious nation. This was Deborah's gift. Everyday people gathered under the tree of Deborah for judgment. She was the only woman judge at that time, a prophetess, a leader, a woman of Israel chosen among a few good men.

During a time of war, Deborah didn't back down. She was obedient, had faith, and used her gift to help a nation come back to God. Deborah called upon a man named Barak, saying, ***“Barak, the Lord, the God of Israel, commands you to go take 10,000 men and lead them to a place where God will deliver Sisera into your hand” (Judg. 4:6).*** You would think Barak would immediately say YES and gather his men. But he replied in fear, telling Deborah he would go only if she accompanied him. Deborah agreed but told Barak the honor of defeating Sisera would now go to a woman instead of him. God kept his word and Barak and his men slew the enemy. It was an easy battle as God allowed it to rain and Barak's men overtook the army on foot. However, Sisera fled to the tent of a woman named Jael, thinking he would be safe, knowing Jael would hide him. Jael knew Sisera was exhausted and thirsty and that she had an opportunity. Instead of giving him water, she gave him milk and covered him. When Sisera fell asleep, Jael walked up quietly and drove a peg into his head, getting the victory as Deborah prophesied. Deborah is an amazing example of how God will choose women for His purpose. God calls women to step out on faith for unimaginable tasks.

As I write this devotion, I remember when I doubted that God could ever use me because of all my mess-ups. But I came to realize that when I was washed in the blood of Christ, I was a new person. I no longer let the negative lies of the enemy hold me back. ***Galatians 3:27-28*** reads, ***“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”***

If you're having doubts that God can use you, STOP doubting and START trusting. You're able to do all things through Christ who gives you strength (***Phil. 4:16***).

As you prepare yourself for today, listen to that small still voice, step out on faith, and be ready for whatever God has for you. He may have you share the good news with someone right next to you, for ***“God is no respecter of persons” (Acts 10:34).***

Let's pray: Lord, thank you for your grace and mercy. Use me today to bring you victory.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above....James 1:17