

## MAVERICKS

--JUDGES 5:1-31--

### INTRODUCTION:

We have already noted two differences in Judges 5 that set it apart from the rest of the book of Judges. The first difference is this chapter is that this is a song instead of narrative. The second difference is the prominence this chapter gives to mothers, highlighting two mothers in its 31 verses. This morning we are going to come at this song from another angle, and that angle is the role of mavericks in this chapter. All of these mavericks are characters in this history that we have looked at before but this morning we will look at them from a little bit different angle. In Judges 5 there are at least three mavericks. The first is Deborah herself. We have already considered her as a mother, but we will look at her from this new angle this morning and then we will look at two other mavericks in this chapter.

#### I. DEBORAH (Judges 5:7)

- a. Deborah could be called a maverick \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. First, Deborah is the only \_\_\_\_\_ in the whole book of Judges to be employed in public leadership, and one of the few in the Bible to do so.
- c. Second, Deborah arrives on the scene and \_\_\_\_\_ Israel in a very difficult and chaotic time.
- d. Third, she is not part of the problem, on the contrary she is a key player in the \_\_\_\_\_ to the problem.

#### II. Jael (Judges 5:24-27)

- a. Jael is our next maverick and we could call her the maverick \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. First, we must admit that Jael has an obscure \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. Second, Jael is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. Third, Jael is \_\_\_\_\_.
- e. Fourth and finally, Jael is not \_\_\_\_\_.
- f. But she is most blessed because she chose to \_\_\_\_\_ with God and His people.

#### III. SHAMGAR (Judge 5:6)

- a. We could not close this message on mavericks without mentioning Shamgar the maverick \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Shamgar and Jael are linked by time and circumstances: "...*the \_\_\_\_\_ of Shamgar*" and "*the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jael*" had circumstances that were very comparable.
- c. They were similar as well in their choice of unconventional \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. But the author makes it clear that Shamgar also was part of God's plan for the people of Israel, Shamgar was a man God used to \_\_\_\_\_ His people.

### CONCLUSION:

Looking more closely at Judges, we find that there are a lot of mavericks in it. In fact, with the exception of Othniel all the judges were mavericks in one way or another. None of them were normal in terms of their backgrounds or social acceptability. But if the judges mentioned in Hebrews 11:32 are representative of them all, then, at their best, they accomplished great things for God by faith. None of them were too warped or tainted for God to use to save His people. There are several lessons we can learn from this.

First, we learn from Judges that God can and does at times use people with whom we are not completely comfortable.

Second, Judges warns us not to become so set in our ways in our Christian culture or our theology that what is generally true becomes the whole truth. When we do this, we leave no room to grow and no room to deal with exceptions to what is normal.

Finally, there is a warning here about confusing godliness with respectability. Deborah may have been respectable but Jael and Shamgar were not. Respectability has never been a reliable source to point us to which side people are on. The more respectable the church becomes, the less real, the less salty, and it becomes more like a country club and less authentically Christian. Jesus was not respectable, nor were His disciples. In the end a church that has no place for mavericks will have no place for Jesus and no place for the Gospel.