

A TALE OF TWO MOTHERS

--JUDGES 5:1-31--

INTRODUCTION:

We all have mothers, we owe our very existence to our biological mothers, for most of us we owe much more. Motherhood extends through generations, from great grandmother to grandmother to mother, and the influence that these generations have on us and our society are immense.

Last week I noted that Judges 5 is different from the rest of the book. It is a song of celebration in the midst of the time of the Judges. It is a victory song of praise to the LORD, the God of Israel during a very dark period of their history. That is the first thing that makes this chapter different, a second difference is how prominently women are featured in it, and not just women but mothers. There is one mother, Deborah, in the beginning and another mother at the end, the mother of Sisera, Israel's enemy and oppressor. We will look at both of these mothers this morning and how they are woven into this song and how it makes an impact on us.

I. DEBORAH – A MOTHER IN ISRAEL (Judges 5:7)

- a. Last Sunday we looked briefly at the phrase, “*on that ____...*” in verse one and noted that it directed our attention back to chapter four.
- b. It was under these circumstances that Deborah rose to prominence and implemented the kind of _____ described for us in chapter four, verses four and five.
- c. The fact that Deborah was a prophetess was clearly the most _____ thing about her.
- d. It was, however, what she was _____ that her motherliness was most clearly seen.
- e. The truth is that Israel in these trying and difficult times needed to be _____, and Deborah met that need.

II. SISERA’S MOTHER – A MOTHER NOT IN ISRAEL (Judges 5:28-30)

- a. This second _____, the mother of Sisera, is seen in these verses in a fixed moment of her life.
- b. I wanted you to become aware that as we listened to the words that there is something deeply _____ with this woman who is Sisera’s mother.
- c. This woman is not only grieving but her mind is _____ also.

III. TWO TYPES OF MOTHERS (Judges 5:31)

- a. “*‘So may all your enemies perish, O LORD! But your _____ be like the sun as he rises in his might.’ And the land had rest for forty years.*” (Judges 5:31, ESV)
- b. From this verse we are confronted with _____ simple truths.
- c. First, in the end there are only two types of people in this world—_____ of God and enemies of God.
- d. The second truth is this—there is only one way to enter the _____ of God—the rest of salvation, and that is by being God’s friend through repentance and faith in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION:

I want to take a moment to reflect on the priceless value of mothers. Let’s thank God for mothers like Deborah, women of character who have stepped in and provided the care that we needed as members of God’s family.

Let’s not forget the mothers who carried us in their wombs and suffered to give us life. Pray that God will help us honor them as we should all the days of our lives, and provide for them as best we can, in their old age.

Finally, we should be praying for mothers like Sisera’s mother who was lost and far from God. Let us pray that they do not remain in this state but will have the humility to acknowledge their need for God and the faith to give themselves to Him so that on the last day they may not perish with God’s enemies, but “like the sun” rise with us to share in His eternal glory and eternal rest.