

LAW + DISORDER

THE DAYS WHEN THE JUDGES RULED

Nailed It

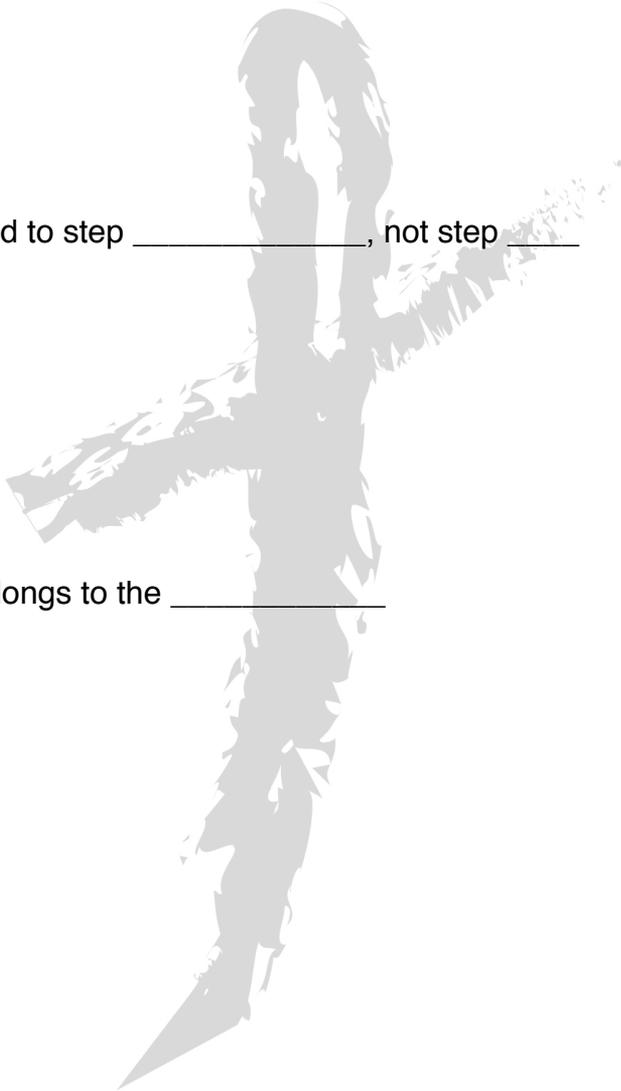
Judges 4:1-5:31

Sermon Notes

Our temptation, if not to do evil, is to do _____

Men are called to step _____, not step _____

The battle belongs to the _____



Life Group Questions

Getting Started

1. The Bible says, "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27). Does that mean men and women are equal and should be treated the same in every way, or they are equal, but they have different roles they play?

Sermon

Read Judges 4:1-24

2. The three main characters in this chapter are Deborah, Barak, and Jael. Describe each one and the part each plays.

Scripture

3. The Canaanites have 900 chariots of iron (v 3). Look back at Judges 1:19. What's the problem with fighting people who have chariots of iron?
4. Verse 15 says, "the LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and all his army before Barak by the edge of the sword." Why does it say the LORD defeated the Canaanites when Barak and his army of 10,000 did all the fighting?

5. Why does Judges draw out such a long graphic description of Jael putting to death Sisera, the commander of the Canaanite army (vv 17-22)?

6. Again, the Bible says, “God subdued Jabin the king of Canaan before the people of Israel” (v 23), right after it describes Jael driving a tent peg through his head. When we face challenges and opposition, what is our part and what is God’s part in the battle?

Study

7. Deborah has to remind Barak that God has commanded him to lead an army against the Canaanites. Barak responds, “If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go” (Judges 4:8). Why does Barak say this? Is he displaying a lack of faith or is there actually something noble in this request? Explain.

8. Hebrews 11 is often called “Israel’s Hall of Faith” because it lists great models of faith throughout the history of Israel. Four judges are included, “And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah... who through faith conquered kingdoms” (Hebrews 11:32-33). Why is Barak listed instead of Deborah?

9. Deborah is the only female judge (out of eight), and in the same chapter, a woman instead of a man gets the glory of killing Sisera, the commander of the Canaanite army (Judges 4:9). What are some principles we can draw about the way God views men and women and the roles they play in life?
10. Deborah puts the actions of Jael in her song. Read Judges 5:24-27. Where do you imagine this song being sung?

Taking It Home

11. Chariots of iron are “God-sized” problems - there is no way you can defeat them on your own. What chariots of fire are you facing in your life?

- What do you need to do and what do you need God to do?

Prayer

How can your Life Group be praying for you this week?