



Female BFFs (Biblical Friends Forever)

Deborah & Jael – “Who Runs the World? Girls!”

Read Judges 4 & 5

May 2018

Last year Disney partnered with Marvel Comics on an unprecedented project – to make an entirely African-American superhero action film. This feat initially seemed “risky” for two reasons: not only had the world never seen black superheroes – they had never seen black women superheroes. As “Black Panther” is now the 4th highest grossing domestic film of all time and just nabbed the 10th spot on the worldwide box office, Disney-Marvel will be cashing in on their risk for years to come.



Oftentimes, GOD uses people we would least expect to accomplish His greatest exploits. This is what He did for Israel to rescue them from 20 years of ruthless oppression nearly 200 years after the death of Joshua. During this time Israel was rife with idolatry and wickedness to such a degree that the strongest man was afraid to step up and lead. To paint a clearer picture of how bad things were, Judges 17:6 says “In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit”. If anyone needed a superhero, they did.

Enter Deborah, GOD’s anointed and appointed leader of Israel. Like the example noted above, she represented something Israel (and the world for that matter) had never seen. First, she was a prophetess (up to this point, GOD had only spoken through men). Secondly, she was a judge, which meant her word was law. She established order and ruled Israel with confidence for 40 years. She was powerful and fearless. Her reputation among the Jews was so

stellar that no one dared challenge or undermine her authority. In fact, she was called “Mother of Israel”.

Our natural inclination would be to assume someone that powerful would be intimidating and unapproachable; but Deborah proved otherwise. We see this when GOD threw Israel another curveball with Jael, an accidental “shero” warrior He used to deliver Israel from the oppressive regime of Sisera.

When Deborah commanded Barak to take 10,000 soldiers to fight Sisera, he refused to go unless she fought with him. She agreed but told him “because of the way you are going about this... The Lord will hand Sisera over to a woman” (1:9). During the fiercest part of the battle, GOD lured Sisera to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber, head of a neighboring clan. She invited him in to hide and rest. While he was sleeping, she picked up a hammer and tent peg and drove it into his temple, ending Israel’s struggle.

Upon hearing the news, Deborah celebrated by writing a song to commemorate the victory. In it, she honored Jael, giving her full credit for setting Israel free. Wow, what a class act! She didn’t use her position to claim all the press for herself. Nor was she intimidated by another strong woman whom GOD used. Deborah saw things through the lens of GOD – one person’s success is a victory for the Kingdom. It’s worth noting that Jael did not seek any recognition for her feat. She simply did what GOD called her to do. As we all have a “shero” in us, we would do well to follow their examples.

ACTION ITEM: MINISTRY LEADERS:
Seek out someone with whom you can develop a mentoring relationship. Consider how you can help them realize or utilize a gift or strength you see in them.