March 5, 2021 Lenten Devotional
Judges 5:1-9 - "When the People Offer Themselves . . ."
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Then Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying:
‘When locks are long in Israel,
when the people offer themselves willingly—
bless the LORD!

‘Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes;
to the LORD I will sing,
I will make melody to the LORD, the God of Israel.

‘LORD, when you went out from Seir,
when you marched from the region of Edom,
the earth trembled,
and the heavens poured,
the clouds indeed poured water.
The mountains quaked before the LORD, the One of Sinai,
before the LORD, the God of Israel.

‘In the days of Shamgar son of Anath,
in the days of Jael, caravans ceased
and travellers kept to the byways.
The peasantry prospered in Israel,
they grew fat on plunder,
because you arose, Deborah,
arose as a mother in Israel.
When new gods were chosen,
then war was in the gates.
Was shield or spear to be seen
among forty thousand in Israel?
My heart goes out to the commanders of Israel
who offered themselves willingly among the people.
Bless the LORD.



-Judges 5:1-9

Reflection

As I read through this passage, the first thing that jumped out to me was the way in which the leaders of Israel were offering themselves up to the Lord – willingly. Leadership, and the willingness to lead, has been essential throughout the entire history of the Bible. We have seen Moses, terrified to lead because of his speech impediment and history with the Egyptian people, yet willing to do as God has called because he has the Lord Almighty on his side. We will see David, just a child when he is called to defeat Goliath and take his place as the future king of Israel, yet willing to do whatever is necessary because God has called him to do so. And

in this passage, we see Deborah leading the tribes of Israel to victory in Canaan even as “the earth trembled, and the heavens dropped” and the clouds dropped water while the mountains quaked before the Lord. This was not an easy war nor was it one that had a sure victory and yet Deborah, alongside the tribes of Israel, was willing to be used by the Lord ultimately for victory.

I don’t know about you, but recently as I have been called to something new or asked to lead in a way I was not anticipating, I’m not sure my response could always be considered “willing.” Perhaps a better word would be “begrudging” or “hesitantly.” I have always been someone who, while usually excited to start a new adventure, is also terrified of failing, doing the wrong thing, or letting everyone down. I need to be reminded of the way in which God prepares us for whatever He has called us to do. I need to be reminded that even when the task at hand seems insurmountable, I have the Lord of all creation on my side. I need to be reminded that before I can lead, I must willingly submit myself to what God is calling me to do. Before there can be joy, before there can be victory, there must be a willingness to step forward and say “Here I am Lord.” My hope is that this passage can remind you of the same thing – do not be afraid, for the Lord your God is with you and He will not forsake you.