Standing in the Gap

JUN

a ministry of North Richland Hills Baptist Church

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Turning Messes into Successes

by Tamara Roberts 2019 June

"...I will deliver him into your hand." Judges 4:7b (NKJV)

Sweat rolled down Barak's face as He looked down at Deborah. "You summoned me?"

"Yes." Deborah patted the ground. "Sit with me a moment." She brushed back curls tossed in the breeze. The shade of her palm tree definitely helped when the sun blazed. She turned, leaning toward Barak, and spoke softly. "The God of Israel, commands you: 'Go to Mount Tabor and prepare for battle.'"

Barak's eyebrows rose. It was strange to hear a woman speak with such authority, but Deborah was Israel's leader. She had been a prophet and a judge for years. But, this?

"Yes, I know." Deborah said. "We're in a real mess." She glanced around. "And it looks impossible. But, our Lord has heard our cry. The leader of Jabin's army, Sisera and his infamous nine hundred chariots, harassed us for twenty years. Jehovah says, 'Enough.'"

The hair on the back of Barak's neck prickled. He wiped his brow, not sure if the sweat was from the heat or sheer terror. He cleared his throat. "Go on."

Deborah's eyes narrowed, "Jehovah said, 'Take ten companies of soldiers. I'll lure Sisera to the Kishon River with all his chariots and troops. And I'll make sure you win the battle.'"

Barak felt the blood drain from his face. His hands trembled. He said, "I-I can't go alone. If you go with me, I'll go."

Debora leaned her head back against the tree trunk and closed her eyes for a moment. Smiling she stood and said, "Of course I'll go with you." She leaned forward whispering, "But understand, there'll be no glory in it for you.

continued

GOD will use a woman's hand to take care of Sisera."

God provided Heber, the Kenite, to leak word to Sisera that Barak had gone up to Mount Tabor. Sisera immediately called up all his chariots—along with all his troops who were with him to the very place foretold.

Israel's troops stood ready as commanded. Deborah, took a deep breath and shouted to Barak, "Charge! This very day Almighty God has given you victory over Sisera. He is marching before you."

Barak gulped, raised his sword, and charged down the slopes of Mount Tabor, his ten companies following him. Rubbing his eyes, relief poured over him. To his amazement, the Lord of Hosts routed Sisera—all those chariots, all those troops!

As promised, Jehovah Nissi went before Israel like a banner.

Barrak chuckled watching Sisera jump out of his chariot and run like a dog with his tail tucked. Sisera's entire fighting force was killed—not one man left. He, disappeared into Heber's wife, Jael's, tent.

Sisera begged to hide. Jael hid him, alright. She smiled, gave him a drink of warm milk and gently tucked him in on her own cot with a blanket. At his request, she stood guard at the door until he fell asleep.

Then, Jael took a tent peg and hammer, tiptoed toward Sisero, and drove the tent peg through his temple, her cot, and all the way into the ground. She wiped his splattered blood off her hands and face and covered his corpse with a blanket. Later she showed Barak what she had done with Sisera.

Everything happened just as Deborah prophesied in Judges 4, even to the fact that women would get credit instead of Barak.

I love that story. It tells us a lot. First, Jehovah Nissi, the Lord our Banner goes before us into battle. Just like He did for Israel so many years ago, He will do for us.

And what activates God to do that? ***Prayer.***

What about our own battles? Do you wonder if you even have the right to cry out to God? Maybe it's one of those messes you created by your own sin. Don't worry. Israel had become disobedient, so Jehovah turned them over to be disciplined waiting until they cried out to Him. That's what He wants. He wants us to come back to Him. He wants us to repent and rely on Him—trust Him.

Some of our messes are financial. Maybe we weren't good stewards with our money, or maybe the circumstances were beyond our control. The same could be said for issues with jobs, relationships, health, and even marriages. In every situation we need to recognize and own our responsibility and repent. Then, we cry out to the Lord, the Boss of our lives, and ask Him to step in—go before us as our banner.

We may know we're not strong enough to be God's choice. Barrak knew he was out-manned and "out-gunned." I think he's listed in Hebrews 11:32's men of faith because he obeyed scared, encouraged by Deborah's faith.

It looked impossible. But, God.

I love those words. But, God. The Lord of Hosts is bigger, stronger, and more than enough. Almighty God goes before us. He's bigger than all the impossibilities that might discourage us into inaction. He even sends faith boosters, like Deborah.

He makes successes out of our messes when we follow Him.

So, whatever circumstance in which we find ourselves, we can trust and pray. Ask. Cry out to God. He knows His plans and our messes, and is waiting for us to ask for His help. Then we only have to find the courage to cooperate.

Like Paul said in Philippians 4, there is no need to be anxious for anything. Let's pray with thanksgiving. Why? Because Jehovah Nissi is the Lord our Banner, and He goes before us making successes out of our messes.

Prayer: Almighty God, Jehovah Nissi, we praise You for the plans you've made for us and the messes we've made. We thank You for going before us. Give us the courage to trust in You enough to obey, step behind Your banner, and follow You. May You receive honor and glory forever and ever, amen.

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Pray for our Church Family

NRHBC Hospital Board & Prayer Sheet as of May 28, 2019: Vickie Auberry (Grady Stone's dtr), Don Shaver, R. O. "Dell" Richardson, Linda Harris, Family of Charlsie Smith, Bill Norman, Sandra Parish, Family of Libby Edgmon, Diane Crabb, Roy Lucas, Lisa Wood, Family of Ralph Lewis, Trish Cothren, Family of Jimmy Stanislaw (Jim & Cheryl's son), Kati Dukes (Mike & Jane's daughter-in-law), James Long, Erin Attaway (William & Charlotte's teenage daughter), Family of Ann Adams, Mutt Parker, Minerva Kimbell, Barbara Atwell, and Jean Preslar.

Pray for these with continuing needs: Alice Abbott, Scott Annable, Robert Atwell, Harold Baldwin, Helen Bauerle, Jean Becker, Jeremy Berveiler, Claudia Bone, Ron Boswell, Charles Bourne, Sr., Paula Brock, LaVida Brooks, Shirley Brooks, Tommy Brown, Jim Burson, Nancy Caffey, Al & Jonathan Cardenas, Maddox Carmean, Margo Carstarphen, Keith Chapman, Anita Christensen, Sherry Christensen, Alice Christman, Carmen Coleman, Jim Collier, Imogene Cooke, Janie Corbett, Betty Crumpler, Scott Donaldson, Don & Gaylene Draper, Willard Elrod, Bob Englemann, Vernalee Ernst, Becky Farris, Marinell Fidler, Lori Fisher, Linda Floyd, Joy Fowler, Bert Frie, Clint & Yvonne Frisby, Judy Gangwere, Barbara Gant, Lupe Garcia, Tammy Garcia, Karla German, Jan Giles, Mona Gill, Deborah Graham, Betty Gresham, Perry Griffey, John & Janie Groce, Ray & Kay Hamelwright, Mark Hays, Melissa Hays, Shelly Hardy, Tom & Hue Leita Harvey, John Heath, Sharon Hill, Virginia Hitchcock, Paul Hopkins, Justin Horn, Mark Howell, Donny Huggins, Gretchen Hurlburt, Vaughn Kankey, Louise Keeton, Mary Frances Kelly, Peggy & Lee Kibbe, Ed & Minerva Kimbell, Stan King, Helen Kingston, Betty Kleppelid, Bob Korb, Becky Langston, Becky Leatherwood, Ruth Leeth, Ezio Liete, Lisa Mapula, Lorraine Moody, Joe Martin, Ken Martin, Cami McCraw, Charlene McGee, Charles McManus, Joann McMorrow, Elmer Miles, Janell Miller, Kevin Miller, Bob Miner, Imogene Mochizuki, Lorraine Moody, Jenny Moore, Shari Moore, Ann Arnhart-O'Briant, Ruth Osborne, Eva Pannell, Eric Pence, Joyce Pierce, Becky Pipkin, Jean Pulliam, Frank Purdy, Dean Radke, Marian Ramsey, Vickey Rice, Nelda & Ron Roik, Wynona Rush, Sutton Savage, Kim Saylor, Steve Sheedy, John Shelton, Linda Shepherd, Becky Shroyer, Brenda & Steve Slaughter, Edith Smith, Gerald Smith, Glinda Smith, Sally Smith, David Sobel, David Spradley, Elma Stafford, Joyce Stafford, Matha Sterling, Keith Stubblefield, Gary Suggs, Ladena Sullivan, Shirley Teems, Mikki Thiele, Mike Thomas, Lloyd Tidmore, Andrea Vargas, Betty Waits, Homer Wallace, Joe Wallace, Barbara Warner, Lorene Williams, Allene Wilson, and George Wilson.

Pray for Ministries of NRHBC & Cross Church

Scott Maze, Senior Pastor requests prayer for:

- Friends, family & co-workers who are lost. Pray for people by name.

Danny Roberts, Executive Pastor requests prayer for:

- Construction of our new building at the Cross Church campus to be swift and safe.
- Search for Cross Church Worship Pastor.
- Grand Opening of the Cross Church Campus building in August.

Jeremy Winters, Cross Church Campus Pastor requests prayer for:

- Generous giving toward "Stronger Together" building fund.
- Our members to remain faithful while continuing to set-up and tear-down each week until we move into our building.
- Effective strategy/leaders for community engagement.

Danny Koonce Worship Pastor requests prayer for:

- Recruiting more participants.

Dave Bryant, MS, & HS Ministries requests prayer for:

- Middle School: Students going to MS Camp. For God to move many to commit their lives to Christ and seek to make an impact for the Kindgom when they return.
- High School: Students to get registered for HS Camp to Estes Park, CO. For God to raise up adult sponsors to come with us as Family Group Leaders.

D'Ann Laywell-Children's Ministry & Caren Crow-Preschool Ministry, Betty Tatum-Cross Church Children's Ministry & Sandra Zwerg -KID Worship Ministry requests prayer for:

- God's inspiration & vision for Children's Ministries.
- Vacation Bible School, Kid's Camp. Also for scholarship money to send all the Good News Club kids to camp.
- Pray for God's guidance as many decisions and preparations are being made as we get closer and closer to moving into the new building at Cross Church.

D'Ann Laywell, Women's Ministry requests prayer for:

- Women in our church to form friendships.

Stuart Pendell, Couples Pastor requests prayer for:

- Couples to listen to the truth of God's Word over the noise of this world.

Bus Ministry requests prayer for:

- Adult riders (18 yrs +) to assist Sundays.

Michael Slater, Dir. of Communications requests prayer for:

- More volunteers for Media Ministry.

Jody Hayes, Wellness & Senior Adult Ministry requests prayer for:

- God to provide opportunities for the wellness staff & volunteers to share Christ with those utilizing the wellness center.

T. J. Daugherty, Director of Global Missions requests prayer for:

- God to continue to raise up harvesters from NRHBC & Cross Church to go to mission field.
- Pray for our 2019 short-term mission teams – we will be sending 10 teams throughout the year to various locations

Daniel Stafford, GPS (Singles) Ministry requests prayer for:

- Single Missionary to the Philippines, Mark Moses.
- Camp Ganibas in Latvia as it completes construction projects and ministers to communities and churches like "The Dwelling Place" in Latvia.
- Our Age 30/40 Somethings Singles class.
- Male facilitators need for Divorce Care Program.

Numbers to call for Prayer Concerns:
International Mission Board
Prayer Line 1-800-395-PRAY (7729)
North American Mission Board Prayer Line 1-800-554-PRAY (7729)
International Mission News
http://www.imb.org
North American Mission News
http://www.namb.net
General Prayer Requests
diane@nrhbc.org

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North Richland Hills
Baptist Church

Let us pray for the special activities of our church

Jun 2—BISD Graduations.
Jun 3—Camp Connect begins for the summer.
Jun 3-7—Student Choir Mission Trip, Kansas City, MO.
Jun 4—Students Summer Chill Out at Bahama Bucks in Colleyville.
Jun 7—GPS (Singles) Pizza and Pajama Party, 6:30 in the S240 Café.
Jun 9—Discover NRHBC Adults New Members class, 9:30 in the parlor. New Discoveries Children's New Members Class, 9:30 CMB 251. VBS decorating, 2-5. Mandatory VBS meeting, Room 200, 5-7.
Jun 10-13—Kid's Day Camp.
Jun 10-14—Vacation Bible School!
Jun 13—GALS perform at CAN.
Jun 16—Fathers Day. Family Dedications.
Jun 16-29—Holy Land Tour with Pastor Scott.
Jun 17-21—Middle School Camp.
Jun 23—Baptism Sunday.
Jun 24-28—KIDs Camp.
Jun 25—Preschool Play Day.
Jun 26—Choir Celebration Dinner & Rehearsal.
Jun 30—Patriotic Sunday.
Tues Morning Sr Bible Study & Tues Ministry Choir singing at various facilities

Homebound Ministry	KID Worship	Kids Beach Clubs
Ladies Prayer Group	Library Ministry	Media Ministry
Men's Bible Study	Men's Ministry	Music Ministry
Pastor's Prayer Team	Preschool Ministry	Senior Adult Ministry
Spanish Ministry	Upward Basketball	Wednesday WILD
Wellness Ctr Ministry	Women's Ministry	Young Singles 20s Ministry
Youth Ministry	Young Singles Thursday Bible Study	

Academy Home School Choir
Adopt-A-School Mentoring
Angel Land Preschool
Apartment Ministry
BSF Groups
Bus Ministry
Child Care Ministry
Children's Choir
Children's Ministry
Camp Connect
Connect Classes
Couples Ministry
Cross Church Campus
Divorce Care
Divorce Care for Kids
ESL Program
Financial Peace University
Fine Arts Academy
Food Pantry
G.A.L.s Drama Group
Global Focus Ministry
Good News Club
GPS (Singles) Ministry
GPS (Singles) Prayer&Praise
GriefShare Ministry
Hispanic Ministry