

Barak discovered that God's Call divides people. There will always be those who will not run with it.

Some got involved, some didn't.

Perhaps their excuse was...

- ❖ / It's just not my calling. Cf. Nehemiah 3 & 4:6

- ❖ It's just not convenient. Cf. Felix in Acts 24:25

We need to prioritise our lives.

Q.6 What is the most important thing that God has asked us to do?

The scary thing is that we can listen to soul shaking sermons all our lives and yet still give good valid reasons why not to go and do anything!



When It's Tough to Follow God

“APATHY”

It's toughest to follow God when everything is going well because it involves a word that we don't like called *discipline*.

God said to his people that when they entered the promised land... ***to be careful they didn't forget the Lord!*** Dt.8:1-14

JUDGES 4 - DEBORAH & BARAK

The time of the judges was a time of continual backsliding from God and crying out to Him and God rescuing them and then backsliding etc.. But when they get into trouble, they cry out to God again! cf. vs.3.

Q.1 They waited 20 years before crying out to God, how long do we wait?

This story is a picture of shaking oneself out of apathy and into action. Everything we do has an effect on others, inactivity leaves just as much an impression as activity. The Church is being prepared to meet Jesus, there is so much to do and we can only do it as each part does its work. (Eph.4:12)

Barak was offered an opportunity to do something for God.

Verse 6 He was called.

Verse 6 He was given instructions.

Verse 8 He puts in the conditions.

Q.2 Why do you think Barak responded in the way he did?

Verse 14 He moves when God tells him to.

Verse 15 God works in co-operation with him.

Verse 16 Barak pursues enthusiastically.

Q.3 Perhaps Barak was intimidated by Deborah; do you ever feel intimidated by others? Is it their presence that intimidates you or their abilities, or perhaps their attitude?

Verse 23 God won a tremendous victory for Barak.



In Chapter 5, we have an analysis of the mission!

Verse 2 When the people offer themselves willingly, praise the Lord.

Q.4 Do you think that God is more interested in our 'availability' than our 'ability'? If "Yes", how do your actions prove this to be what you believe?

Verse 12 Wake up, shake yourself out of your apathy!
Verses 13ff list of those who took part and pulled their weight.

Verse 15/16 the people of Reuben searched their hearts because they stayed among the campfires

Verse 17 Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan; Dan stayed by the ships; Asher on the coast

Verse 18 Zebulon risked their lives, so did Naphtali.

The job was done, but God only used those who set themselves apart as available. There was a job for everyone to do, but not everyone took up the challenge.



Q.5 Is it possible for us today to be so busy doing 'good' things, that we can miss out on the plan of God?