

7. DEBORAH

FIGHT THE FIGHT

Judges 4:14

'Then Deborah said to Barak, "Go! This is the day the LORD has given Sisera into your hands."'

Israel was being oppressed. Finally the people cried out to God and he gave them... Deborah.

She was a great and inspiring leader.

She called the mighty warrior, Barak, and commanded him to go and fight the enemy but he said, 'I'll only go if you come too!' Such was the influence of this powerful woman. So, she went with Barak and the Israelites were victorious.

God had given them everything they needed to defeat their enemy, except one thing. They lacked courage. They needed spurring on and that's why he gave them Deborah.

Spurs are pointy things on the heels of a horse-rider. They are for jabbing into the side of the horse to motivate it forwards, usually to a place it doesn't want to go. In the New Testament, the Bible encourages us to 'Spur one another on towards love and good deeds' (Hebrews 10:24). It seems that we all need a 'Deborah'!

However, we are called to something much more challenging than physical warfare.

We are called to forgive our enemies. We are called to show mercy to people who don't deserve it and stand by those who constantly let us down. We are called to speak the truth when lies make sense, to stand up for the weak and to see possibilities when everyone else sees problems.

These things are unnatural. But God has given us everything we need to fight this fight. We have received the Holy Spirit. He is the One who empowered Jesus to live *and* die well. He is the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead and who holds all things together by his command. We have everything we need, except one thing.

We need spurring on and that's why God has given us each other!

We need spurring on or we'll run from the battle