

The Women Who Knew . . .

Huldah, Miriam, Deborah, Abigail, Esther, Hannah and Sarah

Session 3 - Deborah: Greatness in the Kingdom

Talkback with Pastor Misty

Judges 4:4-23

- 1) Identify within today's biblical text evidence of Deborah's spiritual confidence. How do you suppose this was derived? How significant to a leader's greatness is his/her level of personal spirituality? What is the irony in this scene of the "milk and honey" symbolism (cf. Exodus 3:8, Leviticus 20:24)?

They Knew Something

- 2) Review Judges chapter 5 to learn context for today's lesson in chapter 4. From this ancient poetic text, what more can we say about Deborah? About the other women in this scene (Jael and Sisera's mother)? The people of Israel? The military victory and the role of the Lord? In the case of Deborah, what did she know?

Jesus and the Women

- 3) Review Matthew 20: 20-23. The *mother of the sons of Zebedee* (v. 20) seems to have an assumption about what greatness in the kingdom of heaven looks like. Discuss her assumption, and Jesus' correction. Matthew records another appearance by this woman in the story (cf. Matt. 27:55-56). How might this experience have changed her perspective?

Go Deeper

- 4) Cite specific evidences of violence and aggression within the texts of Judges 4-5. How do you feel about the glorification of these items (even sensationalism) inherent within this powerful, important tale of God's deliverance and Deborah's great heroism?