



You Need a Back-Coverer

June 20, 2021

Judges 4:1-16

Connect:

- On this Father's Day, share a characteristic you admire of your father or a father-figure in your life. How has that characteristic shown up in your own living?
- Name a time you experienced someone *having your back*. How did that feel?

Engage

- Read ***Judges 4:1-16***. After you struggle through the names of people, places and things in this passage, name what you can easily claim about the life and character of Deborah and Barak.
- Deborah is only one of three people in the history of Israel who held the offices of prophet, judge and military leader. (*Moses and Samuel were the other two*). Given her status and reputation in Scripture, why do you think the Church struggled so often to follow the lead of strong and wise women? Whom does society (*or the Church*) struggle to follow now simply because of a factor of their being? How might the Church serve as a Deborah in such a situation?
- A cover-your-back person is not the same as a cover-your-rear person. Describe the difference.
- Deborah's greatest desire was said to be to please God. How can we identify such a trait in our leaders today? Do we value such a trait above and beyond all others? Discuss.
- In England, when the Public Executioner died in 1883, the Home Office promptly received no fewer than fourteen hundred applications from people dying to take his job. Why does it seem we are so eager to see others fall or to see the demise of others/organizations/parties/etc?

Next Steps:

- Who are your protectors now? Who have been your protectors? Who is someone who had a Deborah moment in your life? If you can name that person(s), reach out to them this week and thank them for being that important presence in your life. Tell them how it has shaped your life.
- Think about someone (*or a group of people*) for whom you could be a Deborah presence this week. For what can you stand to support someone(s) attempting to courageously stand for God's loving presence in the world?

Pray:

- "God – you go before me, behind me and beside me always. Thank you for having my back when I need your strength to stand courageously. Give me that same strength that I might stand alongside others who need that same courageous support. Amen."