

POST MODERN

Parables

fatal flaws, ironic twists, & lesser known people



Deborah and Barak

Judges 4-5

A postmodern time

“Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.”

Egypt: Glamorous desert



Canaan: Abundant life



They forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them.

-Judges 2: 12

Idols: God substitutes



They provoked the LORD to anger because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. In his anger he handed them over to raiders who plundered them.

-Judges 2: 13-14

He sold them to their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist. Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the LORD was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them. They were in great distress.

-Judges 2: 14-15

Raiders: Hardship and discouragement



Then the LORD raised up judges,
who saved them out of the hands
of these raiders.

-Judges 2: 16

The “judges”: Called leaders





oppression



The "judge"



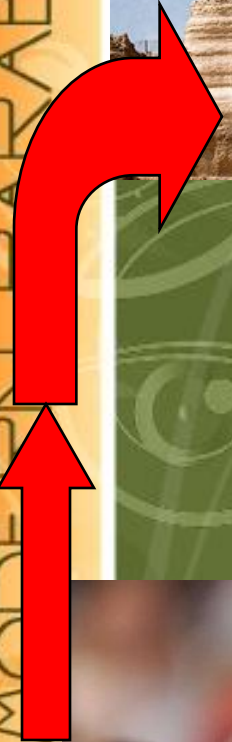
abundance



raiders



idols



The root of the problem: Idolatry

God's identity

- Source of blessing
- Helper
- Comforter
- Sin-bearer
- Commands my life
 - ethical decisions
 - schedule
 - checkbook



God substitutes

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Baal: Prosperity God

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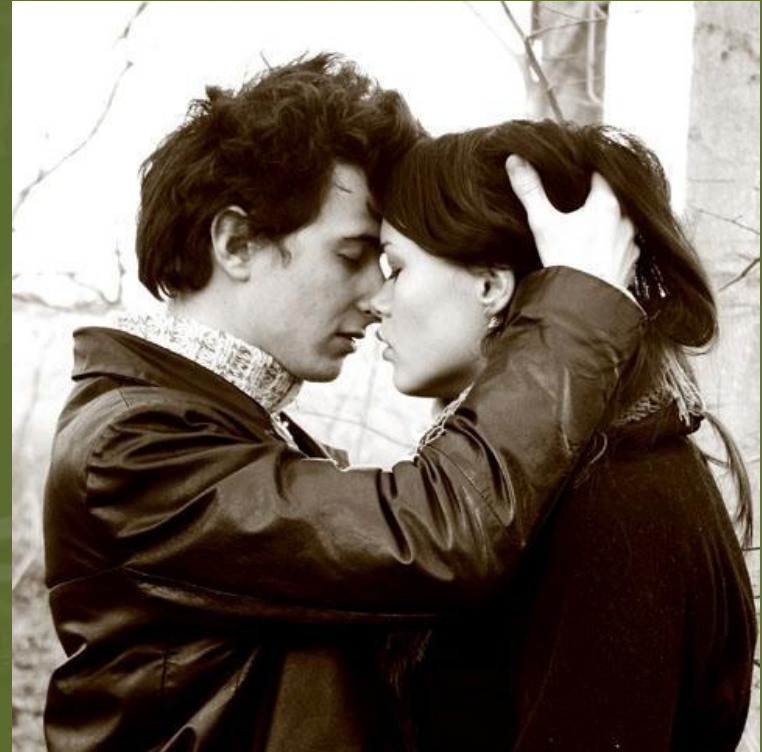
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Persistent idolatry's consequences

But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their fathers, following other gods and serving and worshiping them.

Therefore the LORD was very angry with them and said, "I will no longer drive out [their enemies] before them..."

-Judges 2: 19-21

POST MODERN PARABLES



Evidence of the RAIDERS of 2008



The Lord wants to deliver us
out of the hand of the raiders
in our idolatrous land....

But we're going to have to
deal with the idols in our own
lives.

The solution:
Personal repentance...
and then answering the
call to spiritual warfare

Deborah

Deborah, a prophetess,...was leading Israel at that time....She sent for Barak and said to him, “The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you: ‘Take with you 10,000 men of Naphtali and Zebulum and lead the way to Mt. Tabor. I will lure Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands.’”

-Judges 4: 4-7

Deborah

God is looking for women who will seek the now-word from the Lord.



Barak

Barak said to her, “If you go with me, I will go; but if you don’t go with me, I won’t go.”

“Very well,” Deborah said, “I will go with you. But because of the way you are going about this, the honor will not be yours, for the LORD will hand Sisera over to a woman.”

-Judges 4: 8-9

When they told Sisera that Barak had gone to Mt. Tabor, Sisera gathered together his 900 iron chariots and all the men with him, from Harosheth Haggoyim to the Kishon River.

Then Deborah said to Barak, “Go! This is the day the LORD has given Sisera into your hands. Has not the LORD gone ahead of you?”

-Judges 4: 12-14

At Barak's advance, the LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword, and Sisera abandoned his chariot and fled on foot. But Barak pursued the chariots and army as far as Harosheth Haggoyim. All the troops of Sisera fell by the sword; not a man was left.

-Judges 4: 15-16

Barak

God is looking for
godly men who
will step up and
take leadership in
spiritual warfare.



The godly father

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

-Ephesians 6: 4

Church-going prediction

80% both parents

60% father only

20% mother only

10% neither

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

-Ephesians 6:4

The godly husband

Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word...

-Ephesians 5: 25-26

She had to do his work

But Jael, Heber's wife, picked up a tent peg and a hammer and went quietly to Sisera while he lay fast asleep, exhausted. She drove the tent peg through his temple into the ground, and he died.

-Judges 4: 21



The Lord wants to deliver us out of the hand of the raiders in our idolatrous land....

But we need to turn from our idols to answer his call to spiritual warfare.

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