Powerful Warriors – A Warrior Abides
The Word Within A Warrior

Read 1st Peter 1:3-7

What comes into our lives so that the genuineness of our faith will be proven? _____

_____ **1st Peter 1:6-7**

Read Judges 1

Judah took one look at the iron chariots (v. 19) and God's Word didn't seem as strong. Their faith grew faint. They flinched…and prepared a Plan B, which included the help of the Simeonites (v. 3). It's downhill after that.

But in the midst of Judah's disobedience we find the solid, *abiding* faith of a woman and her husband: Acsah and Othneil. Read verses **9-15** again.

Who arises to the call of Caleb in **Judges 1:13**? _____

What does Acsah ask for? _____ **Judges 1:14**

She asks her father for an additional gift: _____**Judges 1:15**

Acsah is so certain that her clan is going to hang onto what they've gained in the Negev that she asks first for a *field*. Why on earth would you want to start a field if you were concerned that someone might be lurking around with evil intentions, perhaps to run you away from your new home? After all, the region was embroiled in war.

I think a couple of things are at work for Acsah. First of all, she has a godly father. Caleb has stood out amongst the disobedient Israelites for generations. (see Numbers 14). He's not afraid to stand up to sinful ideas and bullies.

Secondly, Caleb sets up a test of pure faith to win his daughter a godly husband. Othniel steps up to the plate and *takes* Kiriath Sepher, *without incident*. He believes to his depths, and the proof is in his conquest. Without a doubt, Othniel is *abiding*.

Then Acsah gets really brave and asks for a way to keep her field fertile and growing, which would be access to a natural water supply. There is, quite obviously, no doubt in this lady's mind that what God has given, the Canaanite will *not* get back. Faith like that comes from *abiding*.

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. **John 15:4 (NKJV)**

Abiding is key to our living within the will of God Almighty – but what is Jesus talking about here? What does it mean to *abide in Me?*

Read John 1:1 and John 1:14

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Who is the *Word became flesh?* _____

What's another word that we use to refer to our Bibles? _____

Matthew Henry wrote of the Divinity of Christ, in part:

> The plainest reason why the Son of God is called the Word, seems to be, that as our words explain our minds to others, so was the Son of God sent in order to reveal His Father's mind to the world.
>
> *—Matthew Henry Concise*

To reveal His Father's mind to the world…it just doesn't get any better than that! Immersing ourselves in the Word of God and abiding there will reveal God's will in our lives.

Read Deuteronomy 7:21-24 and Judges 1:27-36

Did Israel obey/abide in the word of God? _____

Read Judges 2:1-5

What are the consequences? _____

_____

_____.

The Angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal. What had happened at Gilgal? Joshua 5:10-15

_____

_____

_____

> Christ does not come merely to help us, and certainly not to harm us; He comes to take full control.
>
> *—William McDonald, © 1980, Believer's Bible Commentary.*

Gilgal was a place of power, praise and the promise of blessing. When Christ leaves Gilgal to rebuke the Israelites at Bokim, it was a place of weeping. They wept because of their loss of blessing – the Lord was not going to drive their enemies out before them.

Read Judges 2:10-13; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; and Deuteronomy 12:1-3;

Compare **Judges 2:10** and **Deuteronomy 6:7**. Why didn't the new generation know about the Lord and all that He'd done for Israel? _____.

What are the Israelites to do with the Asherah poles? _____

_____ **Deuteronomy 12:3**

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What do you think happened to the Asherah poles? _____

_____ **Judges 2:13**

Read Deuteronomy 30:17-18

How does it go for the new generation of Israelites? _____

_____

_____ **Judges 2:14-15**

Somewhere along the way, the Israelites stopped speaking about the covenant with their children. They stopped abiding. The next generation, as a result, didn't know the Lord, they didn't know about the covenant, and they weren't familiar with God's ways.

Enter the judges…

Read Judges 2:16-19

Why did God raise up judges to rescue Israel? _____

_____ **Judges 2:18**

Did Israel listen to their judges? _____

Did Israel turn from idol worship when the judges were leading them? _____

Read the account of Deborah and Barak, Judges 4 and 5

The song of Deborah and Barak gives us more details of what life had turned into for the Israelites at the time she was called into service. Read carefully Judges 5: 6-8, describe what it must have been like once the Israelites chose new gods. _____

_____

_____

Did this deter Deborah? _____ **Judges 4:6**

In order for Barak to answer the call of duty, what does he require of Deborah? _____

_____ **Judges 4:8**

Does she go with him? _____

What are the consequences of Barak's lack of faith? _____

_____ **Judges 4:9**

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Jael is the woman who will stand in the gap. What does Judges **5:24** say about Jael? (Look in either a *KJV* or *NKJV* for the most accurate translation.) _____

_____

There is *only one other woman* in the entire Bible that is spoken of in such a way. See **Luke 1:28** for the answer. *(KJV or NKJV)*

Okay, at this point, I have to put in a good word for Barak. Deborah does not accompany him into battle, *he goes it alone*. (Judges 4:14-16) His heart has changed immeasurably, and this is proven as he makes it into the famous Hall of Faith in **Hebrews 11**. Somewhere along the way, Barak decided to *abide.*

The Book of Judges articulates a terrible pattern within the nation of Israel, ending with the famous sentence, *In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit*. **Judges 21:25**

Read Deuteronomy 12:4-9

They weren't supposed to do as they saw fit – and neither are we!

Read 1st Peter 2:11-12

We're living in a world that we weren't created for, and in it there are many tempting things, situations and events. If we abide in Christ, we have the chance to prevail. Just remember, He's always been there, and He always will be (**John 1:1**). He spoke us into being, and He wrote the Law. (**John 8:58 and Exodus 3:14**)

Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. **Ephesians 5:17 (NIV 1984)**

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. **John 15:4 (NKJV)**

Let us abide and prevail!

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