



“Breaking the Cycle with Grace”

Lesson 2: Salvation of a Patient God (Part I)

January 14

Introduction

The Cycle:



“Two Minute” Talks

Chapter 3

1. (3:7-11) Defend this statement: God’s anger is good bad news.
2. (3:12-30) Israel just could not break the cycle of worshipping other gods. We can feel that in our lives, too! Talk to/advise the person who is frustrated with his/her inability to break the pattern of bad behavior. What would you say?
3. (3:31) We at times think that God only uses the best and the greatest, the smartest and the bravest, in the work of his church. How does Judges show us that this is totally incorrect?

Questions for self-reflection: How is God using you? How can you assure you “stay on the right track?”

Chapter 4

4. (4:1-3) **Agree/Disagree:** Sin a boring routine, not a fresh excitement.

Everyone answer #5 and pick one of the other two to discuss (7 minutes!)

5. (4:4-24) Respond to someone who says, “See, the account of Deborah shows that there are no unique callings or roles assigned to men and women in the Bible. Rather ‘roles’ were just something Paul and the New Testament church made up to keep women down.”
6. **Agree/Disagree:** It is an almost unwritten cultural law that religion and theology and God – should always be gentle, soft, and nice.
7. Do you have a “Deborah,” someone who encourages you to follow the Lord’s call for your life? Do you have a “Barak” to encourage? If you feel comfortable doing so, share a time when you were encouraged or were an encourager.

Conclusion

What shall we do having seen God’s great deliverances? Deborah was so happy that she sang! Read chapter 5 at home this week. Notice from the song that God does not sit in heaven letting the world turn, uninterested. His deliverances are not a thing of the past. Yes, sometimes it’s only when we see how hopeless we are that we can appreciate how powerful the LORD is. Read Psalm 18:7-19. God’s omnipotence delights in encores! Not the least of which is when he sends the greatest Savior, his Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. This, too, is not just an event from the past, but a daily occurrence: “*My child, I forgive you.*” Doesn’t that just make you want to sing?!

“Homework”

If God wills it, we will attempt to cover a good portion of Judges 6-8 (Gideon) next time. Please feel free to read it through before next week. God’s blessings on your week!