

Blood and Guts!

- Intro about book of Judges, the gentle, quiet nature of this book of the Scriptures...
 - Ehud and his short sword swallowed up in Eglon's paunch in chapter 3...! (3:22)
 - and then a tent-peg through the temple - not a particularly pleasant climax to a story! (4:21)
- But more importantly it is a book about God and his people:
 - people who sin and walk away from God
 - people who face the judgement of God as a result of their sin
 - people who cry out in the midst of their judgement for help, cry out in repentance...
 - and supremely, a God who saves...
- Looking at Deborah - just be glad we aren't looking at Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite!!

She seeks salvation

- Starting point is the need brought to her (4:3,5)
 - and her response is to seek salvation for those in need of rescue (4:6)
- End-point is 5:31 *"Then the land had peace forty years."*
- What need do we see around us?
 - and how do we "seek salvation" in response?
 - listening to God...
 - following his commands...
 - taking risks/going out on a limb...
 - being in vulnerable places for the sake of those in need of salvation

She spurs into action

- Doesn't just send Barak off to do the job, she spurs him on when he is flagging or failing
 - first of all when he says "If you go with me, I will go..." (4:8)
 - then again when she spurs him on in 4:14 "Go! This is the day the LORD has given Sisera into your hands. Has not the LORD gone ahead of you?"
- How do we spur one another into action?
 - "get on with it!!"
 - God is big enough...
 - sometimes it will be challenge, sometimes encouragement, sometimes both!

She gives the glory to God

- Especially chapter five!
 - but also her comments in 4:9 about the honour not going to Barak because he didn't just get on with God's command straight away!
- How can we cultivate an attitude that gives glory to God?
 - tell stories of God at work...