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## DRIVING THE NAIL OF THE CROSS INTO THE CARNAL MIND

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Judges 4:17-23 KJV Howbeit Sisera fled away on his feet to the tent of Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite: for there was peace between Jabin the king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite. (18) And Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said unto him, Turn in, my lord, turn in to me; fear not. And when he had turned in unto her into the tent, she covered him with a mantle. (19) And he said unto her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water to drink; for I am thirsty. And she opened a bottle of milk, and gave him drink, and covered him. (20) Again he said unto her, Stand in the door of the tent, and it shall be, when any man doth come and enquire of thee, and say, Is there any man here? that thou shalt say, No. (21) Then Jael Heber's wife took a nail of the tent, and took an hammer in her hand, and went softly unto him, and smote the nail into his temples, and fastened it into the ground: for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died. (22) And, behold, as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him, and said unto him, Come, and I will shew thee the man whom thou seekest. And when he came into her tent, behold, Sisera lay dead, and the nail was in his temples. (23) So God subdued on that day Jabin the king of Canaan before the children of Israel.

John 19:16-18 KJV Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away. (17) And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: (18) Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.

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The story of Sisera's death begins when Israel slipped into sin after Ehud, the slayer of Eglon, died.

Judges 4:1-9 MKJV And the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of Jehovah when Ehud was dead. (2) And Jehovah sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who ruled in Hazor. The captain of his host was Sisera who lived in Harosheth of the nations. (3) And the sons of Israel cried to Jehovah, for he had nine hundred chariots of iron. And he mightily oppressed the sons of Israel twenty years. (4) And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, judged Israel at that time. (5) And she lived under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim. And the sons of Israel came up to her for judgment. (6) And she sent and called for Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, Has not Jehovah, the God of Israel commanded, saying, Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun? (7) And I will draw Sisera to you, the captain of Jabin's army, at the river Kishon, together with his chariots and his multitude. And I will deliver him into your hands. (8) And Barak said to her, If you will go with me, then I will go. But if you will not go with me, I will not go. (9) And she said, I will surely go with you. But the journey that you take shall not be for your honor, for Jehovah shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh.

A couple of weeks ago we preached about EHUD the left handed man of the tribe of Benjamin.

- Benjamin means SON OF THE RIGHT HAND.
- And we showed how the CROSS is foreshadowed in this story.
- The large fleshly king Eglon who ruled Israel when Israel sinned, speaks of the CARNALITY in a believer that rules one's life when we are not serving God correctly.

Ehud stuck Eglon with a dagger into Eglon's belly and slew this enemy.

- Carnality is destroyed with the word of God, a twoedged sword, WHEN WE RECEIVE REVELATION and "get it" when it comes to the truth of our deaths with Christ.
- This story falls in the very next chapter.

Israel fell into sin again.

- And another angle of the same problem of CARNALITY RULING US and being DEFEATED so we can have victory again is presented.
- Instead of EGLON a fat man representing the enemy of our own carnality, this time the story mentions SISERA the captain of JABIN'S army.

Deborah was a prophetess and used of God to also be a judge in Israel at this time.

- God spoke a word to her to inform Barak to gather 10,000 men and go to Mount Tabor where he will defeat Sisera and his fearsome army.
- Barak says he will only go if Deborah goes.
- She agrees but says that a woman shall get the credit for defeating Sisera instead of Barak.
- As the story continues, Barak is compelled by his feet to march on.
- God is empowering him.

Judges 4:15-16 KJV And the LORD discomfited Sisera, and all his chariots, and all his host, with the edge of the sword before Barak; so that Sisera lighted down off his chariot, and fled away on his feet. (16) But Barak pursued after the chariots, and after the host, unto Harosheth of the Gentiles: and all the host of Sisera fell upon the edge of the sword; and there was not a man left.

But though Barak pursued and slew the army, Sisera escape.

A woman, just like Deborah prophesied, named Jael, was responsible for slaying the enemy's captain.

- She used a nail and drove it into the temple of his head.
- And God subdued Jabin the king of Canaan.
- The captain's death by the nail in his head was the key to the victory.

The idea of A NAIL in the HEAD speaks a powerful message of the cross.

John 19:16-18 KJV Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away. (17) And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called **the place of a skull**, which is called in the Hebrew **G<sub>o</sub>lgotha:** (18) Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.

The hill upon which Jesus was crucified, was called the PLACE OF THE SKULL.

- It is a HEBREW word.
- In Latin it was CALVARIA, from which we get CALVARY.
- The Greek word is CRANION from which we get CRANIUM.

And as they crucified Jesus with nails at the place of the skull, Jael killed the enemy Sisera with a nail in his skull.

Notice it was not the KING she killed.

- Jabin was the King of Canaan.
- But this King's captain was Sisera and by slaying the captain of the king, the king was subdued and defeated.

Sisera speaks of the CARNAL MIND, just as Eglon speaks of great carnality being a fat man.

- Since Sisera was pierced in his head by the nail, we see the idea of the CARNAL MIND involved as THE POWER THE ENEMY USES AGAINST US.
- Your own carnal mind is like the lead captain of his forces against you.
- The devil has no power over you in reality, and he knows it.
- But if he can make you THINK you cannot defeat him, then you are defeated DUE TO YOUR OWN FALSE THINKING he has urged you to guide your life by.

The carnal mind is a mind that inflicts fear and defeatism into your life.

- When Paul was talking about grace and salvation, he made a statement and then followed it by noting that the CARNAL MIND cannot respond to it properly.

Romans 5:20-6:1 KJV Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: (21) That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. (6:1) What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

After saying grace abounded much more where sin abounded, so that grace might rule our lives, Paul asked what response should be given to such a thought.

- And as though he were responding with a response that only a defeatist and carnal mind would respond with, he said, "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?"
- In other words, "What do you think should be our response to knowing grace abounds where sin does much more abound? Should we respond saying that we should continue in sin so that grace will therefore abound?"
- And he snaps back with a resounding NEVER!
- NO!

But Paul knew that a CARNAL MIND is such a defeated mind that it cannot imagine ever getting that much victory from God's grace so that SIN IS DEFEATED IN OUR LIVES.

- He knew that a carnal mind is going to think that the only way we can enjoy grace abounding so much more than sin abounds, is for us to let ourselves commit sin, and then see God step in and cause grace to abound more than sin.

No.

- A thousand times no.
- Paul gives the proper answer as follows:

Romans 6:2 KJV God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

It's like he drops a bombshell on the readers and says YOU ARE DEAD TO SIN!

- Why would you ever stoop to thinking we can have no more victory over sin than by letting our lives commit sin and then seeing God step up and ensure grace abounds more than the sin abounds?
- YOU ARE DEAD TO SIN.
- And then as though he were shocked, which was a very effective writing style, Paul asks a question...

Romans 6:3 KJV Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

Did you never learn the truth that you were immersed into the death of Jesus Christ, making HIS DEATH YOUR DEATHS?

- KNOW YE NOT?
- Do you not have the kind of MIND that has been TAUGHT CORRECTLY?
- In other words, he said, For anyone to think the only victory they can have over sin is by letting it occur in our lives so that God can step up to the plate and cause grace to abound greater than sin, YOU MUST NOT HAVE A SPIRITUAL MIND!
- YOU DO NOT “KNOW” the truth.

This is the carnal mind that is defeated and expects to sin.

- EXPECTATION for something is so very important.
- You can actually have FAITH that YOU WILL SIN.
- And if you expect to sin, and have more faith that you will sin, then YOU WILL FIND A WAY TO DO IT.
- WE HAVE TO CHANGE OUR EXPECTATIONS.
- And a CARNAL MIND EXPECTS TO SIN.

This carnal mind needs to be slain.

- Paul said the key is to KNOW – get it into your head – that you were crucified with Jesus Christ.
- Since the first thing in this series of truths regards KNOWING WE ARE CRUCIFIED WITH JESUS, then you can see the significance of PUTTING A NAIL INTO THE CARNAL MIND to KILL THAT CARNAL MIND.
- This carnal mind is used by the devil to DEFEAT YOU AND KEEP YOU IN BONDAGE.

Just like Israel’s failure to serve God caused EGLON, the FAT KING who represents LOTS OF CARNALITY THAT RULES OUR LIVES, to torment Israel, her failure the next time led to JABIN to use his CAPTAIN SISERA, who stands for the CARNAL MIND to torment you.

- The carnal mind is your ENEMY!
- It is the CAPTAIN the devil uses against you.
- DEFEAT THE CARNAL MIND, and the devil cannot torment you any more.
- The devil leads his battles against you WITH YOUR OWN CARNAL MIND.

This goes to show that the devil truly has no real power over you.

- Your defeat is all because of YOUR OWN FALSE THINKING.

Remember we taught that the carnal mind is the mind that DWELLS UPON what the flesh can relate to.

- Since the flesh only has senses that taste, touch, see, hear and smell, IT CANNOT RELATE TO, and therefore, ENCOURAGE YOU about the things you cannot taste, see, touch, hear or smell.
- Our SPIRITS are like windows for our souls to see the spiritual things, while our BODIES are like windows to allow our souls to relate to the physical things.
- If we always lean towards living and thinking by what OUR BODIES can relate to, we are CARNAL, FLESHLY.
- We need veer our souls’ attention over to our SPIRITS’ window to the things that are real in the spiritual realm.
- Our crucifixion with Jesus is not SOMETHING that is physical, so a CARNAL of physically oriented mind is not going to comprehend that.
- It is a SPIRITUAL REALITY.
- So we need to start to exercise our spiritual part of our beings by praying and seeking understanding of THE

## WORK OF THE CROSS.

- And when THAT TRUTH hits your spirit, a revelation explodes in your heart and IT SLAYS THE CARNAL MIND.

When you can UNDERSTAND the truth of the CO-DEATH you experienced with Jesus, YOU EXPECT POWER WITH GOD.

- It's more KINGDOM REVELATION.
- The FIRST point where we come into UNION with Jesus Christ who is now at the right hand throne, is HIS CRUCIFIXION.
- Therefore, THE NAILING OF JESUS' death is where we begin to SEE THE CARNAL MIND DESTROYED.
- So Jael drove a NAIL into SISERA'S head to defeat him.

Jael was a woman.

- Recall that EHUD was the man who defeated EGLON, who represents the carnality of defeat Christians.
- Ehud was a left handed man, which actually meant in Hebrew that his right hand was damaged for some reason.
- Ehud would make a poor warrior.
- But just as a weak warrior showed how GOD WAS THE ONE WHO ACTUALLY BROUGHT VICTORY, a female who slew the captain of the enemy shows how it is GOD'S POWER, not our own, THAT DEFEATS THE ENEMY.
- I like this because it shows GOD USES PHYSICALLY WEAK VESSELS TO ACCOMPLISH SPIRITUAL GREAT VICTORIES.

1 Corinthians 1:27-30 KJV (27) But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; (28) And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: (29) That no flesh should glory in his presence. (30) But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

It was by no great human effort that we are in Christ.

- It is solely of God.

2 Corinthians 4:7 KJV But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

Weak earthly vessels contain POWER so that everyone will know IT HAD TO BE GOD when something wonderful occurred, for they know there is no way it could have been the flesh.

So the picture of driving a NAIL, as was used to crucify Jesus, in the HEAD of the enemy, as Jesus was crucified AT THE PLACE OF THE SKULL, shows the message that the truth of our crucifixion with Jesus Christ DESTROYS THE CARNAL MIND.

- We died with Jesus Christ.
- That is fact whether we enjoy the benefits of it or not.
- But WHEN WE DIE IN THE PLACE OF THE SKULL, in other words, FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT IN OUR MINDS, we can enjoy the victory and benefits from it.

You have to learn these things in your mind, or else you WILL EXPECT TO SIN.

Romans 6:6-7 KJV Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that

henceforth we should not serve sin. (7) For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Romans 6:11 KJV Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:13 KJV Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

### KNOW, RECKON and YIELD.

- First you have to KNOW ABOUT IT.
- Then You have to RECKON it, which means to APPLY IT AS REALLY TRUE TO YOURSELF.
- Realize this is true FOR YOU!
- Make it very personal.
- Get a revelation that YOU ACTUALLY DIED WITH JESUS.
- And then once you did that, YIELD TO GOD because of this truth.
- DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT NOW.

Notice the sequence of thoughts in verse 13.

Do not yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin.

- This is exactly what people do with a CARNAL MIND.
- THEY EXPECT TO SIN.
- Yielding to sin is EXPECTING TO SIN.

Yield yourselves as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness.

- EXPECT TO NOT SIN.
- EXPECT TO OVERCOME.
- When we learn of the cross, we HAVE FAITH FOR GOD TO USE US AS VESSELS.
- We have faith HE WILL MANIFEST THROUGH US.
- So we give him the opportunity!
- We present ourselves for Him to use.

People who feel unworthy and feel defeated, will never present themselves to God.

- They EXPECT NOTHING by way of God using them.
- But when we KNOW we died with Jesus, and DYING frees us from sin, and reckon that to be true for ourselves, then we EXPECT God to jump at the chance to manifest through us, since he has only been waiting for us to “GET IT”, and present ourselves to Him to manifest through us!

You drive a NAIL right into the PLACE OF THE SKULL, so that the CARNAL MIND is destroyed in your life, and you can see victory.

Romans 8:5-8 Complete Apostles' Bible (5) For those who are fleshly set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. (6) For the mind of the flesh is death, but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace. (7) Therefore the mind of the flesh is enmity against God; for it does not submit to the law of God, nor indeed can it. (8) And those that are in the flesh cannot please God.

The devil THRIVES IN VICTORY OVER YOU due to your ignorance and carnal mind.

- The carnal mind is the captain of the devil's army.

- KILL THE CARNAL MIND, and you defeated the devil!

We read the song of Deborah in the next chapter in Judges.

Judges 5:24-26 Complete Apostles' Bible (24) Blessed among women is Jael wife of Heber the Kenite; let her be blessed above women in tents. (25) He asked for water, she gave him milk in a dish; she brought butter of princes. (26) She stretched forth her left hand to the nail, and her right hand to the workman's hammer, and she smote Sisera with it, she nailed through his head and killed him; she nailed through his temples.

Jesus is on the right hand throne.

- Once we KNOW and RECKON that we died with Jesus, we then YIELD TO HIS POWER TO USE US.
  - And we are seated together with Him on the right hand throne, with KINGDOM POWER IN US!
  - And He manifests through us WHEN WE GO IN HIS NAME!
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