

Week 2: God's Endorsement of Women Leaders

1) Focus

- God's endorsement of women leaders through Miriam, Deborah, and Jael (Exodus 15; Micah 6; Judges 2, 4–5) God Himself raised up and sent women to lead His people. Scripture presents Miriam (prophetess), Deborah (prophetess and judge), and Jael (deliverer) as decisive leaders —not as “last-resort” stand-ins, but as Spirit-appointed instruments who spoke and acted with God's authority.

2) Key Teaching Points

A. Miriam: Prophetess by God's appointment (Ex 15:20; Mic 6:2–4)

1. **No qualifier, no apology:** “Miriam the prophetess” —not a stopgap for lack of men.
 - **Exodus 15:20** — “And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.”
2. **Prophetic authority:** Her song celebrates Yahweh's deliverance, not a “women-only” ministry.
3. **Divine endorsement** (Mic 6:4): God Himself says, “**I sent...Moses...Aaron...Miriam,**” placing her with Israel's national leaders.
 - **Micah 6:4** — “For I brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed thee out of the house of servants; **and I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.**”

Teaching point: God lists Miriam alongside Moses and Aaron as a leader **sent** to Israel.

B. Deborah: Prophetess, wife, and Judge of Israel (Judg 4:4)

1. **Three descriptors in one verse:** *prophetess, wife of Lapidoth, judging Israel.*
2. **National jurisdiction:** She adjudicates for **all Israel** (Judg 4:5)—not just women or children.
3. **God's initiative** (Judg 2:16,18): The **LORD raised up judges**; the **LORD was with the judge**. Deborah's judgeship is God-ordained.

- **Judges 2:16, 18** — “Nevertheless **the LORD raised up judges**, which delivered them... And when the **LORD raised them up judges**, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them...”
- 4. **Prophetic leadership in battle** (Judg 4:6–9, 14–15): She speaks God’s strategy (“Up; for this is the day...”) and **the LORD routes Sisera**, confirming her word.
- 5. **Barak’s wisdom** (not weakness): He insists Deborah come because he wants the **word of the Lord** present at the decisive moment (Judg 4:8,14).
- 6. **Shared victory, right motives**: Deborah foretells that glory will go to a woman—**Jael**— and Barak prioritizes victory over credit (Judg 4:9, 21–24).

Teaching point: Deborah embodies spiritual authority, wise civil leadership, and strategic, faith-filled courage—while being a wife—without Scripture expressing any disapproval.

C. Jael: Unexpected instrument of deliverance (Judg 4:17–22)

1. **Courage and craft**: Jael neutralizes Sisera when the battle hangs in the balance.
2. **Prophetic fulfillment**: Confirms Deborah’s word that victory credit would go to a woman.
3. **God’s sovereignty**: God uses surprising people to complete deliverance.

Teaching point: God’s deliverance arrives through whomever He chooses; availability > pedigree.

D. The Song of Deborah and Barak (Judg 5:1–9)

1. **Two voices, one praise**: Male and female leaders **together** bless the Lord.
2. **Principle**: “**When leaders lead** in Israel, when the people willingly offer themselves, **bless ye the LORD**” (5:2).
3. **Before leadership arose**: Highways deserted, village life ceased (5:6–7).
4. **Catalyst line**: “**Until I Deborah arose**, that I arose a mother in Israel” (5:7).
5. **Humility of rulers and people** (5:9): They **willingly offered themselves**, including men willing to follow a woman with God’s word.

Teaching point: Communities flourish when God-appointed leaders rise, and the people—men and women—respond in faith and humility.

3) Application

1) Divine sending beats human sorting

- God says, “**I sent...Miriam**” (Mic 6:4). His sending validates the call, not human tradition.

2) Office and obedience, not optics

- Deborah’s roles (prophetess, judge, wife) dismantle the notion that marriage status disqualifies women from public leadership.

3) Confirmation by fruit

- Deborah’s word is confirmed: “**And the LORD routed Sisera**” (Judg 4:15). Spirit-led leadership bears supernatural fruit.

4) The humility test

- Barak models kingdom leadership: prefer **victory** over **visibility**, God’s will over personal glory.

5) Today’s charge

- “When leaders lead...bless the LORD.” The Church needs women and men who will **arise** with God’s word, and a people humble enough to follow them.

4) Discussion Questions

1. **Micah 6:4** puts Miriam alongside Moses and Aaron. How does God’s “I sent” reshape your view of women’s leadership?
2. Why is Barak’s insistence that Deborah come with him actually a sign of wisdom and faith, not weakness?
3. Where might pride or tradition keep us from following the person who currently carries the **word of the Lord**?

5) Personal Reflection & Prayer

- **Search me:** Lord, am I resisting a leader because of **gender** rather than Your **calling**?
- **Availability:** “Here am I; **send me.**” Make me like Deborah—awake to Your word; like Barak—humble and courageous; like Jael—decisive and available.
- **Intercession:** Pray for women God right now—Apostles, prophets, pastors, evangelists, teachers, and women that are in Helps Ministries—to **arise** with clarity, purity, and power.

6) Sticky Statement

“Leadership belongs to those who carry the word of the Lord—male or female.”

7) Memory Verse:

“In Christ there is neither male nor female... for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” – Galatians 3:28

8)Notes: