

## **A Mother in Israel!**

Text: Judges 5:1-7

109 years ago Friday, Rosa Louise McCauley Parks was born. She was born and reared in Alabama. Church was not optional for Rosa Parks. She loved it! Naturally demure and reserved while attending church, she enjoyed hearing her family and friends shouting "Amen!" and "Hallelujah!" Rosa found comfort in Christian hymns such as "Woke Up This Morning with My Mind Stayed on Jesus" and "Oh, Freedom, Let it Ring," She once said, "I remember finding such comfort and peace while reading the Bible, its teaching became a way of life and helped me in dealing with my day-to-day problems."

Mrs. Parks reminisced, "Every day before supper and before we went to services on Sundays my grandmother would read the Bible to me, and my grandfather would pray. We even had devotions before going to pick cotton in the fields. Prayer and the Bible became a part of my everyday thoughts and beliefs...God is everything to me. From my upbringing and the Bible I learned people should stand up for rights, just as the children of Israel stood up to the Pharaoh."

It was this kind of faith that gave Mrs. Parks the courage when riding on the city bus in Montgomery, Alabama the strength to remain seated rather than cave into the unconstitutional laws of racial segregation, even though it cost her the arrest that sparked the beginning of the end to racial segregation in America.

Commenting on that December day in 1955, Mrs. Parks recounted, "I instantly felt God give me the strength to endure whatever would happen next. God's peace flooded my soul, and my fear melted away. All people were equal in the eyes of God, and I was going to live like a free person. It was time for someone to stand up - or, in my case, sit down. I refused to move."

The story over the years was that Mrs. Parks did not give up her seat because she had worked all day and her feet were tired. Mrs. Parks later clarified, "I was not tired physically, or no more tired than I usually was at the end of a working day. I was not old, although some people have an image of me as being old then. I was forty-two. No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in." No wonder Rosa Parks is called, "The Mother of the Civil Rights Movement."

Isn't it amazing in the course of American history and in the case of Israel's history, from our story today, how it has often taken a woman to stand up for what is right, which in turns challenges the men to do the right things.

Judges 5:7 says, "The inhabitants of the villages ceased, they ceased in Israel, until that Deborah arose, that I arose a mother in Israel." Deborah has to be one of the greatest ladies in the Bible, yet she preferred not to be called a great prophetess (which she was), or a great general (which she became), but she liked to be known simply as one of the mothers in Israel. And what a mother she was! To get a better understanding of the times in which Deborah lived please notice:

(1) Fear prevails (Judges 5:6).

(2) Fear paralyzes (Judges 5:15, 16).

(3) Fear procrastinates (Judges 5:17).

(4) Courage sees the big picture (Judges 5:18-27).

- Zebulon and Naphtali show that when we lay down our life for the Lord, He will undertake and move the universe for our benefit (Judges 5:18-20).
- There is no neutrality in the battle of the Lord (Judges 5:23).
- A woman has power in her own home (Judges 5:24-27; I Timothy 5:14).

### I. EVERY GENERATION MUST MAKE A CHOICE.

Judges 4:1.

Leviticus 6:13: "The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out."

Acts 13:36 tells us that David served his own generation. By the time his grandson Rehoboam became king the kingdom was split. God deals with us in our time. We cannot blame another generation. We are faced with life-changing decisions that we must make. Our parents cannot make them for us. They are not accountable to us, nor are we accountable to them. These Scriptures illustrate this truth:

Deuteronomy 24:16; Ezekiel 18:19, 20; Jeremiah 31:29-31; Romans 14:10-12.

### II. FOR EVERY DESPOT GOD RAISES UP A DELIVERER.

Judges 4:2-5.

For every Pharaoh there is a Moses. For every Ahab there is an Elijah. For every Nebuchadnezzar there is a Daniel. For every Caesar there is a Paul. For every Jabin there is a Deborah.

### III. A MOTHER IS A COURAGE BUILDER.

Judges 4:6-14.

In Barbara Rainey's book *Growing Together in Courage* she tells this story:

"One day in 1663, Minisink Indians swept down from the Catskill Mountains, killed several inhabitants of the little settlement now known as New Paltz, New York, and took a number of women and children captive. Among them were Catharine DuBois and her infant daughter, Sara. For ten weeks they were held captive in the mountains while search parties looked for them in vain.

“Certain they had avoided reprisal, the Indians decided to celebrate their success by burning Catharine and Sara. A pile of logs was arranged, upon which the bound mother and daughter were placed.

“A most human response at this moment would have been for Catharine to scream at her tormentors, curse them for her suffering, or even curse God. Instead, she burst into song, turning the foreboding Catskill forest into a cathedral of praise.

The Minisink Indians, of course, had not asked her for a song, but they were so captivated with Catharine’s singing that they demanded another song, then another, and then still another. And while she sang, her husband, Louis, and his search party burst upon the scene and rescued her.

“Catharine could not have known that her decision about how to die would tell her succeeding generations much about how they should live. Nor can we know how some decision today will affect generations to come.”

#### IV. GIVE A WOMAN A HAMMER AND A NAIL AND SHE CAN MOVE THE WORLD.

Judges 4:15-24.

Archimedes once said, “Give me a lever, a place to stand, and I will move the world.”

#### CONCLUSION: THE SIDEREAL EFFECT

Judges 5:20: “They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera.

##### A. The angels worship.

Revelation 7:11, 12

Hebrews 1:6: “And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.”

##### B. The angels watch.

Daniel 4:17: “This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.”

Hebrews 1:14; Matthew 18:10.

##### C. The angels war.

Revelation 12:7-9: “And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

II Kings 6:16, 17; Hebrews 1:14; Psalm 91:1