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Valley Church
Week 14 – Deborah and the Rise of Women

Introduction:

Judges 5:2, 5:7, 5:9

Message Notes / Key Thoughts:

Genesis 2:18

“...I believe it is best to translate Genesis 2:18 as ‘I will make [the woman] a power [or strength] corresponding to the man.’”
(Dr. Walter Kaiser, Correcting Caricatures PDF, p. 7)

Genesis 2:23

Acts 2:17-18

Galatians 3:26-28

1 Timothy 2:11-14

Greek *manthano* = A woman MUST learn...

Greek *hesuchia* = Quietness of spirit, meekness, humility

Greek *plasso* = to mold, shape or form; to develop, as in training

The Big Idea:

According to Jesus and Paul, women must be equipped and developed just like men...to serve as teachers and leaders in the church. If God would lead any woman to pursue formal theological or ministry training, she should follow that prompting from the Holy Spirit.

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. Deborah is one of the most influential leaders mentioned in the Bible. Who have been some of the most influential women in your life personally and why?

Ponderings:

2. Genesis 3:16 indicates that as part of the curse of sin, there would be conflict between male and female. Men would try to rule over women, and women would struggle with looking to men instead of God.

In what way(s) have you seen this struggle play out in global history? In your personal experience?

How does the Gospel and the New Covenant of Christ re-set the playing field back to what God had originally desired in the Garden of Eden? Discuss...

3. Consider the following realities and talk about them using the questions that follow...

Joel prophesied that after the Baptism of the Holy Spirit came both men and women would prophesy (Acts 2). Paul said that Phoebe served in the role of a deacon, and that he had been a beneficiary of her great ministry as a woman in leadership (Romans 16:1). He also identified Junia as an apostle, even calling her "outstanding among the apostles" (Rom. 16:7). Priscilla's name is listed ahead of her husband (signifying teaching authority) and was used by God to help teach Apollos (Acts 18:26).

- Given the abundant Scriptural evidence of women serving in church leadership roles, how is it that some Christian traditions have minimized or downplayed these functions for women in the church?
- Having briefly considered 1 Timothy 2:11-14 in its cultural and linguistic context, what are your views about women serving in teaching roles or other authoritative positions in the church? Do you believe your views have been more influenced by a personal study of Scripture or by religious or mainstream culture? Explain...

Promptings:

4. Are you aware of a mother or another woman who could use your encouragement this week through a kind word, and act of service or a sacrificial gift? How can you become or remain pro-active in the Gospel-driven imperative to elevate not only women, but any person or group in the church that has been persecuted, marginalized or minimized? Discuss...