

## What Lies Ahead – Part 2: *The Best Is Yet to Come*

Discussion Notes – January 11, 2026

1. What's something you've accomplished in the past that once felt out of reach?

### Read Psalm 37:23 (ESV)

“The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way.”

2. The sermon emphasized that God guides steps, not leaps. Why do you think that matters for how we approach the future?

### Read Judges 4:4–5 (ESV)

“Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the people of Israel came up to her for judgment.”

3. What does Deborah's obedience teach us about stepping into God's calling even when it feels uncomfortable or unexpected?
4. What's a goal God may be stirring in you that feels out of reach but not out of sight?

### Read Judges 4:7–8 (ESV)

“And I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the river Kishon with his chariots and his troops, and I will give him into your hand.’ Barak said to her, ‘If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go.’”

5. What does Barak's response reveal about fear, dependence, or hesitation?
6. Why do you think God often asks us to make a plan before we feel confident?

God had already promised victory, yet Barak hesitated. His response shows how fear can coexist with belief. The sermon highlighted that **planning is often an act of faith**, not a lack of trust. Making a plan doesn't mean we rely on ourselves; it shows we believe God will meet us in our obedience.

### Read Judges 4:14 (ESV)

“And Deborah said to Barak, ‘Up! For this is the day in which the LORD has given Sisera into your hand. Does not the LORD go out before you?’ So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand men following him.”

7. The sermon said, “Most people are addicted to information and allergic to execution.” How have you seen that play out personally or culturally?

We live in a world full of information, but knowledge alone doesn't produce transformation. This moment in Judges marks the shift from preparation to action. Deborah's words remind Barak—and us—that God often moves *as we move*.

### **Read Judges 4:9 (ESV)**

“She said, ‘I will surely go with you. Nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.’ Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.”

8. What helps you move forward in obedience even when fear is still present?

This passage highlights that God's purposes will still be fulfilled, but our hesitation can limit what we personally experience. The sermon emphasized that fear doesn't always stop God's plan—but it can cause us to miss opportunities, growth, or blessing.

### **Deep Dive – Living with Faith, Intention, and Action**

#### **Read 1 Corinthians 2:9 (ESV)**

“But, as it is written, ‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him.’”

9. How does this verse shape the way you think about your future and God's role in it?

10. How do goal-setting, planning, and action work together in a life of faith rather than replacing trust in God?

11. Where might God be calling you to stop delaying and start walking forward in trust?

This passage reminds us that God's plans are greater than what we can see or predict. The sermon made clear that faith is not passive—it's lived out through intentional steps, plans, and action.

### **Closing Prayer**

- Ask God to help you trust Him with the future He is preparing.
- Pray for courage to take the next faithful step, not just dream about it.
- Ask God to replace fear with obedience and confidence in His leading.