

Essay from the bold pastor #64 - Zero Dark Thirty -

“Zero Dark Thirty (meaning half an hour past midnight in military language)”, the movie that chronicles the United States Navy Seal’s hunt for Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and his death is making a fuss. It is clear that the Sony Pictures was putting a lot of effort in this project based on the fact that the idea was pitched only 22 days after the mission was completed. However, the movie faced unexpected challenges and ended up not being a big success as the studio hoped for.

First, the movie was scheduled to be released at the height of the presidential election. The Republican Party, whose goal was to prevent the President Obama from being re-elected, claimed that the movie was propaganda for the President because he was hailed as the key person to the success of the mission. As a result, the opening date of the movie was moved from October 12 to December 19. Second, some republicans released a statement protesting the movie for containing brutal tortures. Furthermore, the movie missed the nomination for the Best Director in Academy Awards despite that the nomination seemed guaranteed since its release in Hollywood.

The movie was directed by a female director Kathryn Bigelow, who won 6 academy awards including the Best Picture for “The Hurt Locker” in 2010. As you may remember, it was also a U.S. military-related movie that depicts U.S. Army bomb squad during Iraq war. The main character in “Zero Dark Thirty” is a female as well. It is based on an actual CIA agent around 30 years old who finally found Laden’s hide-out after a persistent pursuit. She is said to be quite gutsy. These two women, a director fighting against politics and public opinion as well as a brilliant agent succeeding in cornering the most wanted, reminded me of two women in the Book of Judges.

One is a female prophet Deborah, who corners an enemy, and the other is the wife of a blacksmith Jael, who finishes the enemy.

“But Jael, Heber's wife, picked up a tent peg and a hammer and went quietly to him while he lay fast asleep, exhausted. She drove the peg through his temple into the ground, and he died.”
Judges 4:21

This story takes place about 3050 years ago when only men fought in wars. Yet it depicts a women’s killing of the leader of their enemy who has fallen asleep in his hide-out while their men are dragging their feet. It is also noted that they enjoyed a long lasting peace in Israel as a result of this event. This may sound surprising, but bible is actually “a book of battles” as well. It is a great game-plan handbook in which the weak, the despised, and the oppressed are able to win with the help of God.

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