

UNSUNG HEROES
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A CERTAIN WOMAN

She was known only as a certain woman. Perhaps that is sufficient, since what she did is so much more significant than her name would be. At least to the many men and women trapped in the tower with her. She lifted up a piece of stone, moved just a bit with it, and dropped it again. With that one action, her friends, family, and city were saved.

The rock would not have been light. It was a piece of a millstone. In its better days, it had served the purpose of turning wheat and corn into life sustaining, bread producing meal. On this day, it would both remove and sustain life.

There was no question of the intentions of Abimelech, as found in the ninth chapter of Judges. He had just come from Shechem, where the inhabitants of that city had also gathered in a tower as a defensible place of last resort. He had gathered tree branches, piled them around the tower, and set fire to their safe haven. He had burned a thousand men and women to death in their stronghold.

Now this killer had attacked the city of Thebez. Amazingly, the inhabitants of that city also took refuge in a tower. Abimelech fought his way to the base of this new tower, intent on burning it as well. It looked as though history would repeat itself, but there was a new factor in the equation. It was a certain woman.

We are not told what prompted her action. We are only told God used her to pay Abimelech back for the wickedness he had done in killing his seventy brothers. With that knowledge, it is safe to assume God put the idea of using the stone in her head, just before she put it on Abimelech's skull. Apparently, this attacker even watched her drop it upon him, for he acknowledged before his death, that he had been wounded by a woman. In a bad situation, she did all she could, with what she had. With God's help, that was sufficient.

Trusting God after doing all we know to do, is still a great approach to solving our problems today.