

Women in the Bible - Luke 8:1-3, 23:55-24:12
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

I am so thankful for the amazing women who have shaped my life. I have a godly mother. A sweet elderly Greek woman taught me how to use the Bible and find the books in Bible drill. I had women Sunday school teachers, Bible school leaders, and youth group volunteers. I married an amazing woman who is gifted and such a strong leader. I am so thankful for unbelievable daughters who love Jesus and so deeply want to live for His fame and mission. Genesis is filled with amazing women using their gifts and humanity to make a difference in the Kingdom. I am thankful for all of them.

Our question this week is about the women in the Bible. *Who are the women of the bible and why are they so important for us to know?* A few weeks back we jumped into the issue of gender roles, so not rehashing all of that. But two things we learned and need to keep remembering is that men and women are equal as being created in God's image and equal as inheritors of salvation and participants in God's mission. Yet, from the first chapter of the Bible and throughout the Scriptures we are reminded that men and women are different and therefore are given some differing roles. Within that framework, the Bible introduces us to myriads of amazing women whose lives shape the story of Scripture, and are vitally used of God in the nation of Israel, the life of Jesus, and the mission of the church. We meet women whose calling is to be mothers and wives, and their investment in children has a long and glorious impact. Their homeward calling is affirmed and celebrated. But, we also meet women who lead in many roles, including as judges, worship directors, prophetesses, and teachers. We meet women with incredible gifts used in ministry and even business who have blessed places in the story. All in all, there are over 180 women named in the pages of Scripture, and when you add the unnamed women the numbers are in the hundreds. In other words, women genuinely matter to God and are important in His glorious story.

One of the popular approaches among those who hold more traditional views of women and gender is to recognize that the Bible acknowledges women's place in the story, yet they then point out that when women prophesy, teach, and lead it is actually a sign of a significant problem. The problem is that they have to do these things because the men are not stepping up and doing their jobs. Women should be in the home, having babies, and serving their husbands. That is the role God has for them, this view espouses. Therefore, when women lead it becomes, for these people, a sign of God's judgment on a society. Believe it or not, this is not just an old idea, a fairly well known American pastor espoused these views in an interview that got national attention this week. There are so many problems with this view. First, the Bible just does not support this notion. You can't find a chapter and verse to support it, rather it flows from an over-inflated understanding of the differences in roles between men and women. Actually, what you do find are stories celebrating the inclusion of women in God's great story. More importantly, it undermines the very thing the Bible is doing by including the names and stories of these amazing women. The inclusion of women such as Deborah the Judge and Anna the prophetess shows us women as equal partners in God's glorious mission and purpose in the world. When we reduce the importance and identity of women down to their relationship to husbands and men we are actually committing the same idolatry warned of in the curse in Genesis 3. Women are celebrated, and their callings are affirmed in Scripture.

No where is this more evident than the ministry of Jesus. Jesus calls 12 men to be his first disciples and apostles. Does this mean that Jesus did not have women disciples? Absolutely not! Our text this week introduces to several women who are incredibly important followers of Jesus. Luke goes out of his way to name them in chapter 8, showing us that a few of them were rescued from horrible lives and even demon possession. But notice a key point he makes in Luke 8:3. A group of women are using their financial means to support the Messianic ministry of Jesus. These very women are present at the tomb as they placed Jesus'

dead body inside, show up on Sunday morning to anoint His body only to find the tomb empty. They then have an angel who announces, “Why do you seek the living among the dead. He is not here, He is risen!” The response of this group of women is to get to the other disciples and announce the news. Don’t miss this. Our central message, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the proclamation of Jesus’ defeat of death, hell, and the grave through His death and resurrection. The first people to believe, to proclaim that message, to declare that Jesus is alive, and to preach the Gospel is this band of women. They are the first witnesses and the first to give testimony. This is not a minor thing in the story. It is a reminder of the importance of women in God’s story here, in the Scripture, and in the church.

So here is why it matters. Because women matter and every woman should pursue God’s call and purpose in her life. While the Bible does limit the role of pastor, it actually frees women to find their place in God’s story and join Him. Their lives, gifts, and stories matter deeply to Jesus, and their impact for His Kingdom is beautiful.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Matthew 16	Matthew 17	Matthew 18	Matthew 19	Matthew 20	Matthew 21	Matthew 22

Reading from this past week’s sermon: Luke 8:1-3, 23:55-24:12

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: 2 Peter 3:1-14

Family Worship

Song - *Who You Say I Am*

https://youtu.be/lcC1Bp13n_4?feature=shared

Gospel Project

Unit: King Solomon

Story: Solomon Built the Temple

Big Picture Question: What does God know?

Answer: God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

Scripture: 1 Kings 6-8

New City Catechism

Question 33: Should those who have faith in Christ seek their salvation through their own works, or anywhere else?

Answer: No, everything necessary to salvation is found in Christ.

Verse: Galatians 2:16

Luke 8:1-3, 23:55-24:12

- What are your favorite women in the Bible? What about their stories inspire you?
- How does it make you feel to learn that there are women judges, prophets, teachers, and leaders found in the Bible? What are some things we can learn from this?
- Who are the women named in our text this week? What are some of the things Luke points out about these female disciples, and why are they so important in the story?
- How can we use the stories of women in the Bible to affirm and inspire our girls and women?

Prayer

*Pray that women would flourish and Genesis and that their gifts would deeply impact our church.

*Pray for one of our church plants, Faith Community Bible Church in Jennings and their Pastor Michael Byrd.