

“Lessons from Women in the Bible”

By Jesse Rairdon

Sunday, May 3rd, 2015

Please remain standing; I'd like to ask Brother Joe R. if he would come and open us in prayer, please.

Joe: Heavenly Father, we call upon Your name, that great name that You have revealed in the Word of God, called Jesus, Yeshua in Hebrew. Father, we ask that You would deal with us today, with a message. Let it not be a regular Sunday, that we come, and say, “The message was well,” then we go and forget all about it. Don't even share what we have heard. Don't even go over the scriptures of what we've heard. May you deal with us with Your Spirit, and convict us, and deal with us, because, Father, You're coming. Father, there will be no excuses for not knowing the Scriptures. And, not only for knowing them, but for not doing them, because You said, Father, it's the doers that will be in Heaven, not the hearers. Father, I ask that You would bless and inspire Brother Jesse; that you bless him and anoint him with Your unction of Your Spirit, God, that You touch him, that You speak to him, and through him. Let him be the instrument that's in your hand today, so that we can hear and do that which the Word of God teaches. Father, we're not here to worship a man; we're here to worship You and to hear from You, not from Jesse. Bless him, be with his mouth, guide his lips, touch his heart, and, Father, deal with us. May we see the importance of hearing your Word, and then go and do it. Bless everyone that's here. Minister to every soul, every spirit, and, Father, every knee that's here. You know what it is. We ask You to bless and move upon Your people like never before. If we're stunted in our growth, spiritually, may we see it today. God, I love You. God, I praise You. Bless Brother Jesse. Bless the message, again, anoint it, we ask, and we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, Yeshua Hamashia, our Savior. Amen.

You may be seated. Amen. So, this month has Mother's Day and Woman's Day, so, we're going to be talking about lessons learned from women in the Bible. How many of you believe we can learn from women in the Bible? How many of you believe we can learn from women right here in this ministry? They are the women in the Bible for today. As Sister Ashley was sharing, do what God tells you to do. Amen? What God has called you to do?

Our theme scripture for the month:

Proverbs 31:30 *Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.*

“...a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.” The world tries to throw us all this glamour, and this beauty, and all this famous, and all this princesses and queens, and all this stuff at us, but a woman that fears the LORD, that's what's important to God. And every single one of you is beautiful to God. Amen?

Godly Women are important to us in society, in our homes and in our ministry. Important. If I hadn't been raised by a God fearing foster mother, who knows where I'd be? Who knows where I might have ended up if I hadn't been raised by a foster-mother who prayed for me, even when I didn't even know it? Who knows how I would have turned out? And a grandmother who prayed, and who was baptized in Jesus' name, by the way. My grandmother and grandfather were both baptized in Jesus' name when they were young. My grandmother prayed for me. Yeah, they didn't go to church a lot; they didn't fall into religion a lot, but they prayed, and they taught me lessons from the Bible when I was young.

The Scripture shows us that mothers, women have a very important part in raising our children. The Scripture says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." You lay the biggest part of the foundation in that child's life. You're very, very important. Yes, the father has rule over the household, but you're the one who's there day-to-day, teaching and training those children in the ways of the Lord. Amen? Society wants to kind of take that away; kind of make that, you know, unimportant. "Do what the school says to do;" "Do what the government says to do." You need to open up the Scriptures and do what the Lord says to do. Amen?

Our women have not only a part in this, but probably the biggest part in this.

Zipporah

The first woman we're going to learn from in the Bible today is Zipporah. This is Moses' wife.

Exodus 4:24-26 *And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the Lord met him, and sought to kill him. Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me. So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband thou art, because of the circumcision.*

Obedience. We're going to talk a little bit about obedience today, because sometimes we get that great calling of God, or that great vision of God, and we see something that God wants us to do, but we fail to obey God. You could be called to do whatever—you could be called to come up here and preach and teach, but if you don't obey God, you're in error. I'm in error. Thank God for godly women that will point that out to us. If you think that's wrong for your wife to speak up when you're wrong, oh, you're in trouble. Especially if both of you are wrong. Ananias and Sapphira can teach us that (Acts 5:1-11). You don't want to be in that boat. Guys, if you're looking for a woman, you ought to be looking for woman who is going to tell you when you're wrong. It's okay. You don't want somebody who's just going to go along with it. You want to obey God. This is the circumcision; that soul is going to be cut off. All of you are bloody. She's saying, "You're putting our lives at risk because you didn't obey God." That is an important lesson.

When Samuel was talking to Saul, and Saul disobeyed God, and he thought making all these sacrifices was going to make up for it, what was the answer? To obey is better than sacrifice, to hearken better than the fat of rams (1 Samuel 15:22). You can come and worship god all you want, but if you're not obeying God, than you're missing the boat. Noah, if he hadn't obeyed God, he would have missed the boat, literally. He wouldn't have even built it, nor his family been saved.

I cannot justify disobedience! No way, no how, anyway, anyhow. I cannot justify disobedience to God. Our sister's going to get baptized in Jesus' name today. Circumcision of the heart, buried with Him in baptism, raised to walk in newness of life; that's obedience to God. That's where it starts. That's the first big thing you have to obey. Some of you here haven't even obeyed that, yet, and you've been taught it, and you go about and think that you're going to do something for God. You're wrong, and you're in error, and you need to stop. Amen? There's times when I'm wrong, and even disobedient to God, and God will reveal that in a dream to my wife, or speak to her, and say, "You're wrong." I need to listen to God. Amen?

Mary and Martha

That's our next example. Obedience is important. Probably the most important. I know people that go to church and worship their whole lives and never get obedience down. Never get obedience

down. Ever learning, studying, and never coming to the knowledge of the Truth (2 Timothy 3:7). I was like that. Still like that, at times in my life, church. I might be preaching today, but I'm not exempt from the message. I'm not exempt.

Luke 10:38-42 *Now it came to pass, as they went, that He entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard His word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to Him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.*

The lesson we can learn from Mary is take time to learn from Jesus. Take time to learn from Jesus. In fact, He can teach you more than I can teach you, He can teach you more than all the teachers in this room can teach you. In fact, He's taught me more than all the preachers I've heard in my whole life, because I took time for Jesus; I still take time for Jesus. You have to take time to listen to Jesus.

Jesus said "**Learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart.**"(Matthew 11:29) "**Learn of Me...**" Take time to learn from the Lord. Amen?

We can learn from Martha as well. Busy, busy, busy, busy, busy, busy. Now, was she in sin, by preparing and getting ready and making her house right? "We have an important person coming!" Jesus was coming, the Messiah was coming, the Son of God was coming, in the flesh, coming in their house right there. She wasn't sinning, but someone else chose the good part. She got so busy, she didn't take time for Jesus. Sometimes we get so busy in life—yeah, we've got kids, we've got wives in that household; take time for Jesus, and God will bring all that other stuff in together. Sometimes we get so, so busy, don't we? Everything is so important; everything is so important... And you can get busy with church work, too. Let's talk to the church for a minute. You can get so busy visiting people, and out there doing things, and miss the boat. If you spend time with Jesus, that church work's going to be more blessed, and visiting someone is going to be more and more blessed, than if we just be so busy. Busy, busy, busy, busy, busy, busy, bzzzzz, like a little bee; bzzzzz, busy. Look at me, I'm busy.

Take time to learn from Jesus. And learning is more listening than speaking. Let me make this clear: Sometimes we go to God, and just lay it all out there, and then walk away. Don't even take time to listen. God gave us two ears for a reason, and one mouth. We've got to do more listening than speaking when we talk to God. How can we learn from Him if we're just so busy talking? Talk, talk, talk, talk... "All my problems, woe is me! I'm going to sing another worship song." Sing, sing, sing, talk, talk, talk, don't stop to listen, just... Take time to learn from Jesus. Amen?

Miriam

Miriam was the sister of Aaron.

Numbers 12:1-16 *And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. And they said, Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses hath he not spoken also by us? And the Lord heard it. (Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.) And the Lord spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out. And the Lord came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth. And he said, Hear now My words: If*

there be a prophet among you, I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all Mine house. With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the Lord shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against My servant Moses? And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them; and he departed. And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous. And Aaron said unto Moses, Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned. Let her not be as one dead, of whom the flesh is half consumed when he cometh out of his mother's womb. And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee. And the Lord said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in again. And Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days: and the people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in again. And afterward the people removed from Hazeroth, and pitched in the wilderness of Paran.

One of the biggest lessons we can learn from Miriam is God does not like racial discrimination. Can I get an amen on that? God does not like racial discrimination, in any form, in any way, no matter what race you are. No matter where you came from, God does not like racial discrimination.

There is one thing Satan uses to divide us more than anything. Look at the news nowadays. What enflames people more than anything, quickly? Racial discrimination.

Most of you know my wife is black, and I'm white. Okay? If you have a problem with that, let's go have a talk. God doesn't have a problem with that. God didn't have a problem with Zipporah being black, or being from Ethiopia. But Miriam thought it was okay to talk about it. She thought it was okay to gossip. She thought it was okay, because she was a prophetess. She was a prophetess, and Aaron was a prophet, and God spoke through them, but God heard it, so it was a problem. He said, "If I speak to a prophet or a prophetess, I might give them a vision or a dream, but, with Moses, that's My friend, and I'll talk to him face-to-face. And how dare you speak against my servant Moses?" God was hot! You ever see an example in the Scriptures where it makes God angry? Racial discrimination. He was up, out of the tabernacle, like zooooo!—and she was leprous, like white as a ghost. Aaron looked at her, and she was leprous. I like Moses' reaction, though. He called on God, and prayed for her, and said, "Heal her, God!" "Well, if her father had spit in her face... Let her stay outside the camp seven days, and then she'll be healed." So, God's anger was appeased a little bit, but there still needed to be some judgment, because God does not like racial discrimination.

Where I grew up, I come from a small town in Minnesota, there's not a lot of people of different races there. There was one person of a different race, he was Asian and he was adopted in to that family. So anything I knew or learned about other races or cultures, I saw on TV or what others told me. What a big bunch of lies. What a big bunch of lies! So when I joined the Navy, I made it a point to be around other people or other cultures or other backgrounds. Most of my friends were black, and some people didn't like that. Even in the Navy, as integrated as they're supposed to be. That is their problem. So I took time to learn from others. I took time to listen to others. In fact, one of my good friends today, he's like a mentor to me, is black—Herb Stackhouse. I'll tell you, I didn't have a father that raised me right, and he's given me a lot of wisdom, he and his wife. He's given me a lot of wisdom in finances, and how to deal with people, how to live life in a marriage; he's given me a lot of wisdom.

When I came to this ministry, I saw how people, true worshippers of God worshipped together of all races. You know how I saw what I saw? People weren't looking at race; they were looking at faith. They were looking at love; they were looking the way Jesus looks at people. People outside of our ministry marvel at that, and kind of ask, "How we keep different races together, to worship together?" It's because we don't focus on race. We don't focus on the color of their skin, or their background, or how rich or poor

they are, or how much money they can put in the offering plate. We focus on faith. We focus on what Pastor Davis taught us years ago, why he worked the streets, why he was kicked out of another ministry because he ministered to people that other people looked down on, of different backgrounds.

Tabitha

Let's look at some things about Tabitha; let's read some things about Tabitha.

Acts 9:36-40 *Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did. And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber. And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.*

One of the lessons we can learn from Tabitha is how important it is to have your personal ministry. Sometimes we don't do anything because we think we're not important enough, or we're not beautiful enough, or we're not this or that. What the world would throw at us: because we can't speak well enough, we can't, we're not, we don't have enough education. Tabitha, Dorcas, saw the needs of her sisters, and met those needs quite simply. Look at the testimony after she had passed: They didn't even say anything, they just showed the life that she had lived by the garments he had made for these widows. People that most people neglect, forget about. These are people that have lost their husbands, and nobody's really there to look after them. Church, we can't forget about these people. They're part of us. Amen? So, if you have that part of ministry, that's important. If all you can do is just pay someone a visit—someone mentioned today that someone needs a visit. Christine, right? She needs a visit in the nursing home where she's at, just to lift her spirits a little. Can we take time to do that? Can we take—that's the first time I've heard that. Can we take time, church? It's important. You don't have to get up here and talk; you don't have to get up here and sing lovely, but you can go visit somebody. You can take the time to maybe cook someone a meal, you know, that just had surgery. You can take time to send someone a card when you notice they weren't at church. These are all things that are important that should never be neglected. Everyone is important and everyone can contribute. Everybody's part of the body of Christ, and everybody has something to do. Not just to come here, sit in church, listen to a message, and go home. We all have a part to do in the ministry; we can all help out. If we lay the burdens on just the leaders—and they're great leaders, God bless them—but we've got to share the load; we've got to work together. Amen? If we don't take care of each other in the church, who will? Re you going to wait on the government to take care of you? They're going to run out of money quick; I see that. We need to take care of each other. Amen?

Lessons Learned From a Wise Mother

A lot of people think that this was a king that wrote this, and it was a king that wrote this, but it was lessons from a wise mother. We're going to take our time and go through these lessons from a virtuous woman. Like a mother, she wanted her son to marry the right one. They say that a son, if they have a good mother, if they have a good raising, they're going to come seek a wife that's like that; they're

going to look for that; they're going to look for those qualities. There's a lot of good qualities in this virtuous woman here that should not be overlooked. Amen? I'm blessed; I got all these, *and* I got a beautiful wife.

Proverbs 31:1 *The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.*

There we go: The mother's responsibility, teaching the son, even if that son is the king. It's important that you mothers teach your children the right things. And, this is a prophecy, so it's from God. Let's skip down to verse 10.

Proverbs 31:10 *Who can find a virtuous woman for her price is far above rubies.*

Who can find one? I waited for a long time to find one. I'm glad I waited. I'm glad I didn't just settle for any woman.

Proverbs 31:11 *The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.*

Trust is a key foundation in any relationship. If you don't trust each other, you might as well give it up right now.

Proverbs 31:12 *She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.*

All. For better or for worse, 'til death us do part. Remember when you made those vows? It seems like a long time ago, but it's still important today. People do forget; sometimes I forget. Tina's uncle shared with me, "Every time, all the time, repeat your vows." Repeat your vows to yourself; remind yourself what you've committed to today. Remind yourself.

Proverbs 31:12 *She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.*

In the good times and the bad times. When he makes mistakes, still do him good. Amen?

Proverbs 31:13 *She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.*

Not a lazy person.

Proverbs 31:14-15 *She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.*

Early in the morning, she makes sure everybody's taken care of, everybody's fed.

Proverbs 31:16 *She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.*

She sees the possibilities of something long before it happens, and she's willing to do the work to make it come to pass.

Proverbs 31:17-20 *She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and*

her hands hold the distaff. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

So, not only is she taking care of her family, but others around, just like Dorcas. Like Tabitha was doing, she's reaching out her hands to those in need.

Proverbs 31:21 *She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.*

If it wasn't for my wife sometimes, I wouldn't buy clothes. I would let my shoes get holes in them, and my clothes just basically fall off. My wife is real good about she keeps me dressed; she keeps me warm.

Proverbs 31:23 *Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.*

She didn't just settle for any old church-guy. She wanted to make sure that she's got somebody that's talking and living what he's talking. Amen?

Proverbs 31:24-31 *She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.*

This sounds like superwoman. How can she do all this? My goodness.

Proverbs 31:25-31 *Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.*

Sometimes there's some sorrow in your laboring, but she's got her time of rejoicing.

Proverbs 31:26-31 *She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.*

She doesn't just shoot off in anger every time something goes wrong. I'm glad my wife's like that, we'd be arguing all the time. "No, honey, you might want to think about that. You might not want to go that route; these are the consequences if we make that decision." "Okay, all right." I can receive kindness a little better than sometimes I can arguing. "It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house." (Proverbs 21:9) My wife's not like that; she doesn't beat me. There's no spousal abuse going on. But, with kindness and love, she shares with me when I'm wrong. And at times, she'll even say, "You're a bloody husband; that's wrong. Stop that," in so many words.

Proverbs 31:27-31 *She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.*

Always trying to make sure things are better, given charge of the home. Making sure all the little details are done, clean, taken care of, that this house is spiritual, that the babies are prayed over, prayed with, and suckled. All those things are important in day-to-day life. She sees that and does that. I don't have to know all the details of the house, because that's her part in our ministry together. Amen? I do have to have rule, I do have to make the final decision, but together, we work together, and she takes care of a lot of the little details. Amen?

Proverbs 31:28-31 *Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have' done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain:*

but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

God bless you.

