

“Who Can Find a Virtuous Woman?”

By Brother Parrish Lee

Sunday, May 24th, 2015

So wonderful to be here in the House of God. It's so wonderful to know God, here in 2015, May 24th. It's so wonderful to know Him in our hearts and lives and know Him to be real and truth; not a mystery, not a fable, not something that you kind of wonder about, but to actually know the living, true, One wise God. I love that song that they sang about don't take my burdens or my cross away. For then I would grow weary, and what else? And idle. Can you imagine if God didn't let you go through anything; everything was roses and cotton candy, peaches and cream, well, actually, pralines and cream? And, you know, you could say, “Thank You,” but you wouldn't know how to appreciate it. But, once it's taken away, you know, and then you go through a little something. When you get healed, when you get restored, when you encouraged after being discouraged, you tend to say, “Thank You, Lord! Thank You, thank You, thank You.”

This month has been the month that we are focusing on women in the bible, women in the Scriptures. The scripture that we focus on for the month is:

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

Giving honor to God, Who is the Head of my life, our Maker, our Savior, our Redeemer, our Comforter, our Maker, our Bridge over troubled water, our Light in the darkness, our Way out of every way that we don't have a way out of. The Person who makes all the mysteries be known to us and gives us sufficient for what it is we need that day. Giving honor to Him. Giving honor to You, Almighty God. Giving honor to those who have gone on before us: Our founding pastor and his family, our pastor—who was here last week, and what a privilege and joy it was—he and his family, and for all those who have come who come to stand in the gap and make up the hedge. It is not a simple task to allow God to move in your life; put your flesh aside, and say, “Not my will, but Thine be done, Oh, God.” Giving honor to them. And, giving honor to all of y'all, who come and present yourselves before God that we could have a blessing from Him.

We're going to start opening with our first scripture:

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

If we could just bow our heads for just a moment. Lord, at this time we come, and we just start off with a thank You, Mighty God, for, truly, there is none like You; full of goodness and full of mercy and full of grace, and full of truth. God, we thank You for the blessing, knowing that we could come before You and worship You. You are the giver of all good and perfect gifts. Lord, we ask, at this time, as we present ourselves to You, that You would imbue and teach and share and reprove and correct and strengthen us with your Word that comes from You. And do, as it said in Your Word, that it would not return unto You void, but truly, surely, do that which You sent it to do. This we do claim and pray in Jesus name. And everyone said amen. Amen.

So, we said that this is the month for learning lessons from women in the Bible. Women in the Bible.

When I first got saved, some years ago, I was a brand-new Christian; I wanted to share with everybody. After all, if I can become a Christian, *anybody* can become a Christian. I'm from Baltimore,

for those of you that don't know, Baltimore Maryland—of course, they've been in the news a little bit lately, and, yeah, amen, thank God I'm saved—but I wanted to share with *everybody* about this—to them it wasn't new, but to me it was new; I didn't know the ways of God. So, I call people and I tell people and I know they're going to understand it, because if *I* can understand it, *you* can understand it. So, I called my friends and my family, and one of the friends I had talked with—a lady friend—I was telling her about the greatness of God, you know, "Jesus Christ is real! And being a Christian is exciting! And you need to know that!" and she was none too well impressed; none too well impressed at all. I thought that was kind of strange, but it didn't stop me. Anybody that knows me, sometimes I get on a train, I just like being on the train-track; if somebody tries to stop me, we'll blow the whole thing up—BOOM! You just keep going right on through it, and that's what I was doing; I just kept sharing, and she said, "Well, Parrish, you know, you know, I really can't get all that excited about Christianity, because, you know, the Bible does have a problem with women." I had never heard that before. It was like somebody slapped me right in the face. I was a brand-new Christian; I didn't know nothing but a few Scriptures—enough to know that you can be saved. I had never heard that before. I only wish I could have that conversation with her, today. Aaah. Oh, but to go back. I was able to share with her some time later, but, by that time, I was a little bit older in the faith, and she was a little bit longer away from what I had to share.

So, anyway, we're moving on to our first subject, here. Our first subject is going to be:

Lessons from Women in Worship

Exodus 15:20-21:21 *And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.*

"And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand..." So, Miriam, she took a timbrel in her hand, and she went on to sing and dance. As we talk about the lessons from women in the Bible, we have to go to this sister right here. Now, Sister Miriam, she was not just a prophetess—and a prophetess is pretty great, all by itself; prophetess, one who could share the ways and the Word of the Spirit of God—but, she also as a teacher. Yes, Miriam was a teacher. Brother Jesse talked about Miriam a couple of weeks ago, and how she got a little beside herself—that comes later. Before all that happened, that Jesse talked about, Miriam was a Prophetess. Now, this prophetess stands out for a real important reason. You see, Israel was in bondage, they were slaves. And, as they were slaves, God brought deliverance. And, as God brought deliverance, He brought it in a way they had never seen before. When that came about, yeah, they were just slave people. They might have been strong, but they weren't warriors; they were not fighters. And these people were being delivered by God, to come all the way to the edge of the Red Sea, and then the Egyptians—the mightiest nation on the planet—chased after them, to bring them back into bondage. But God did a marvelous thing; He opened up the Red Sea, they travelled across on dry ground, the Egyptians followed them, but God closed up the Red Sea on them, but He let the Israelites go across on dry ground, and they made it to the other side! And, as they made it to the other side, you have to imagine that, these people who were slaves, are now delivered. "What do we do? we've never been free before! What do we do? How do we govern? We don't know anything about this stuff!" You kind of have to imagine, they're being brought to a new land. They've never seen this land before. "How do we find this land? What about the rock? Where do we settle? Where do our families and stuff go?" And, as they had all those wonders in their minds, Miriam took a timbrel and she began to play. She didn't ask permission, she just took a timbrel and began to play! And she played before the Lord. And the Bible goes on to say she danced, and she played, and she talked about the victory. The Bible goes on to say, in verse twenty-one, "And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD, for He hath

triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath He thrown into the sea.” Now, when Miriam went to do this, playing her timbrel, she didn’t care if people would follow here, but, it just so happened, people did. So, where they had doubt and confusion and anxiety, she brought in praise and worship and encouragement and direction. And now, people are starting to follow her. But who, according to the Bible, who starts to follow her? In verse number twenty, it says, “And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.” All the women. Can you imagine, one woman, here they’ve been delivered, and they say, “We don’t know what we’re going to do,” and she says, “Well, we’re going to start off by thanking and praising God. That’s how we’re going to start this thing off.” And all the women caught that clue. I don’t know where all the guys were, but that’s another matter. Anyway, all the women caught that clue! They joined in with timbrels and dances throughout the nation of Israel, celebrating their deliverance. There’s a lesson in that. There’s a lesson in that: You start it, people will follow. People who want to, they’ll follow. But, can you imagine what it must have been like? Can you imagine, all the women are following this Miriam? They’re singing the songs, they’re praising, dancing before God. They come up, and they follow here; I don’t know how long it went, but, it must have gone on until the evening. So, after they had finished, after they had done all this worshipping, praising, singing songs to God, they must have gone home. It said, “All the women,” so that would have been the mothers, and the wives, the sisters, and the daughters. All of them. So, now that they have followed Miriam, now it’s to go back to their places, to their families. So, as they went back to their families, what do you think they talked about? Oh, they would have said how great it was to get out there and worship. Oh, how wonderful the fellowship, this one spirit must have been, with all the other ladies just clapping, and praising God. So, this one woman, yes, this one woman, because of what she did, she encouraged the other ladies, who took it to their homes and their families and their dwellings. She encouraged a nation. She encouraged a nation, because she allowed what was in her life to be used for an opportunity of God. Yeah. That must have been something.

Some years ago a brother came to me and he said, “You know, I got something to tell you.” He said, “You know, after service...” I’ve told this story before. He said, “You know, after Sunday service, we went home, me and my wife, and she didn’t hardly say a word the whole way home. Drive in the car, walked up to the door; didn’t say a word.” He said, “She got in the door...” This is what he said, “She got in the door, and she wasn’t more than two steps, three steps inside, she dropped her purse, books, everything. She didn’t even take her coat off, she raised her hands and started praising and blessing God in my house. She brought service home with her.” I’m listening to what he’s going to say, because this is, you know, this is going to—you start telling me a story, I’ve got to hear the end of it. I’ve got that problem. I can’t stop a story in the middle of it. If I go to the movies, if I watch two minutes of a movie, I’ve got to know how it ended. I got to know! And, if I have to go somewhere, I have to ask somebody or look it up. So, I want to hear what this brother has to say. What did he say? He said that, “I was convicted! Ooh, she blessed God. Ooh, she praised God. I was convicted.” And I’m listening for the next thing that he’s going to say, and he changed the subject. He *changed the subject*. Yes, yes. He changed the subject, and I thought, “Oh, Lord, oh, Lord, did he join her?” No, he didn’t. Did he thank God? Did he pray to God, “Get me to the place where she is, that we could worship as a husband and wife together, and that we could show our children how bring things to God together, and God could bless us all?” No, he didn’t. He just changed the subject, and I had to pray, “Lord, please, please give that brother a blessing, that, if it ever happens again, she won’t be the only one, and why couldn’t he do the leading? Why did it have to wait for a certain walk-in; why can’t they just do it together, bless God together as a family, and let Him just pour out a blessing into the whole house? Let the kids be raised knowing how to bless God. Let it not be a mystery to them. Let them not look at mom and dad like, ‘What is wrong with you?’”

There was another brother one time—I’ve told this story before, but I gots to tell it today. There was another time when we had a brother, he was telling me, “You know, that day, when y’all was up there in the altar...” because, see, at the old building we had an altar, and after church service was over and

things had died down, we'd go in and clean the classes, go in between the chairs, and set them up, and all that stuff—you had to get ready for the next time. And, as we were doing that, some people who had finished whatever their task was, just went to the altar and started worshipping, started thanking God. No musicians, no singers, just started praising and thanking God. And that small group that was in the altar doing that, started growing. Other people would walk by, and they felt like they had opportunity, and there was some praising going on and gonna join that boat. And a few more people came. And pretty soon, the vacuuming wasn't so important, and neither was how straight the chairs were. People didn't run to the altar; they stood where they were and started blessing God. All throughout the sanctuary. And he said, "You know, that's not really my style. I really don't all that carried way and excited. Our family didn't do that sort of thing." And I kind of understood; not everybody's the same. As he was talking, he said, "Yeah, you know, I was kind of ending a conversation I was in, because I could hear it was really starting to pick up in there, and it's time to get the family together and head home." And, as he started to go down where we had the overflow, as he was about to turn the corner, he said, "Man, somebody out there is really carrying on. Somebody's really making a whole lot of noise." And he said, as he got closer, the voice sounded familiar. Because, in the hallway, he discovered, much to his amazement, it was his wife that just broke out in praise, and couldn't take another step before she had to break out and praise and worship God for all that He's given to her. And he said, "Wow. I just didn't know it was in there. Well, I guess I'd better go get the kids, and we'll just kind of wait until she's done." I said, "Well, you ain't gonna get no kind of pat on the back from me, because I am not a quiet worshipper. I'm going to tell you that if your wife was in there calling down the graces of God, you should have gotten your kids and *took them up there beside her!* You say, 'kids, this is how your mom breaks it down when she comes before the Lord.' And you should have joined her, so that they can see how a family that loves, and praises and worships and is not ashamed to come before the one true and wise God that we talked about." Amen. And that was my prayer; that was my prayer. After I talked to him, that was my prayer for him, "God make a way for him." I'm one of those people, sometimes I've got to be pushed out! Sometimes somebody's got to give me a little boot in the butt, and give me a little encouragement. Throw me out there so far that I don't have a way to make it back. Make me worship. Make me pray. Make me come before God. I will thank him once I get done. I will thank whatever it was that got me into that spirit was.

So, that's one woman of worship. Our next woman is going to be a polar, yeah, a polar opposite to the one we just read.

2 Samuel 6:15 *So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.*

So, the setting is that the Ark of the Covenant had been taken away from Israel. Israel had really been messing up, so their enemies came, and they snatched what they had. That's one of the things that they used for victory; snatched it away. So, Israel no longer had their Ark of the Covenant, where the Mercy Seat was, and where the glory of the Lord would come and dwell. This is important, because, without the mercy seat, how can the people be encouraged? Without them seeing the Ark of the Covenant, how do they know that God is real? So, as the Ark of the Covenant comes back in, there's great joy there. There's great joy among the people, and, as it said, David danced before the Lord.

2 Samuel 6:19-23 *And he dealt among all the people, even among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. So all the people departed every one to his house. Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the King of Israel to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows*

shamelessly uncovereth himself! And David said unto Michal, It was before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD. And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour. Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death.

So, the setting is that the Ark of the Covenant has come back into the camp. Who wouldn't be excited about the Ark, the Covenant of God coming back? You being restored to God; who would not be excited? Who wouldn't be excited about that? So, to set the setting, Michal wasn't just any old lady, she actually was the daughter of Saul, who was a king. Well, that made her a princess, a princess. David married the princess, and now that Saul is out of the picture, he is the king. So, Michal, she is the queen, and you know she must have had the softest lotions, and herbal things, and she must have been gorgeous, because they would have made sure she was gorgeous. So, there she was, the influencer of women all around; women all around would love to be like the queen. "Oh. Man, my skin would be soft as butter. Aww, they'd put all the nicest flowers all up in my hair. Oh, I'd be decked out *to the max*." And here is Michal, and there she goes before King David, and, you know, David had something going on—where I come from, they would call it, the old folks would call it—I'd hear them talk about it when I was young—they said, "He got happy." They would say David got happy, or they would say he got a little touched. Whew! He just couldn't hold it, and he just, "Whah-hah!" He just had it going on all around the place—that's what they call it. We would call it, "He got excited." David got excited there because the Covenant was coming back. And Michal, Michal saw this. And he talks of dancing before God, and you might say, "Well, Brother Parrish, that stuff ain't needful because the Bible says let all things be done with decency and in order. The Bible speaks about that." And, you know, the Bible, absolutely, speaks of all things done in decency and in order, but that same Bible that speaks of decency and in order, talks about getting caught up to the third Heaven. And that same Bible says, Apostle Paul talks about, "I don't even know if I was in my body, I was in such a place with God." And then he says, "I had such an experience with God, I can't even tell people. It's not even lawful for me to let it come out of my mouth. It was just me and God somewhere." That same Bible. So, yes, being excited and happy in decency and in order is absolutely of God.

But, see, Michal had a problem with this. She had a problem with this because, maybe, you know, once you get a little housebroken, once you get a little regal, once you get a little hierarchy, or a little prestige, you don't have to get so base. Because it—and several of you know what I'm talking about, because you've seen God do some wonderful things in your life—precious things to you—and sometimes when God does something for you, something to you, something with you, it seems like the devil says, "Okay, they just got blessed; I'm going to send somebody over there to discourage them, try and take it away." Some people here know what I'm talking about. You know, just when God is pouring it in, somebody comes along to stop the flow, quench the Spirit, to get it out of you. That's all at the same time. So, Michal told him, Michal said, "That's doing the thing of a vain fellow. We are so high up, we don't worship and come before God like that!" But David went on to teach her, ad to show her something very important. David said, "Uh-uh-uh-uh-uh-uh-uh. You see, this is *me and my God*. I will praise, I will sing, I will give worship, I will knell, crouch, I will cry and weep. Whatever I do before me and my God it is with me and my God." God even had a better answer than that. You see, the problem was the attitude. The attitude put on the people of God, doing something for God, and God addressed the attitude. God addressed the attitude to tell her, show her with her life, that it will bear no fruit. That attitude cannot bear fruit. Yeah, you might make money in your life, and yeah, you might maybe be a little successful, and get a few things here and there, and other people might say you are successful, but as far as God is concerned, it will bear no fruit. You won't see your ministry grow. You won't see your anointing increase. You might learn a few more things, but God isn't going to flourish that land, because

it is a land of restriction in God. A land of restriction in God. So, there we have the lessons of two: The lesson of Miriam, who led a nation to be encouraged because of praises, and the lesson of a queen who would have stopped everything if her husband would have listened to her.

Part 2: Lessons from Women Who Teach

Yeah, lessons from women who teach. We're

Judges 4:4-5 *And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time. And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim: and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.*

So, Deborah was a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, and she judged Israel at the time. And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim: and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment. A prophetess. A prophetess; see, this was at a point before they were having kings. You needed people who would be able to—you had the priests, who would help you with ways in *coming to* God, but then you needed some instruction in your everyday life. You needed to know, “Okay, should I do this or that?” at times. And the judges were the people who God used to bring different types of deliverance; Samson was a judge, also. Ehud was a judge. Different types of deliverance for the people of Israel. And, here we see that, as she was judging the land, which she did at various times, and, if we were going to read the story, we would see that she set up some victories by encouraging people to follow what God had for them to do; what God had for them to do.

And, now a different teacher:

1Kings 16:31 *And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.*

Now, here, we already see, it's talking about, “...as if it had been a light thing...” This is talking about King Ahab, and it says that King Ahab was a wicked king. He was a very wicked king, and it goes on to say, as though it were a light thing, he took to wife a woman of the Zidonians. The Zidonians. A woman by the name of Jezebel. If you ever see any of the old-time movies, one of the biggest swear words that somebody will call a bad woman was, “Ooh, you Jezebel. You're a Jezebel.” They used that term because way back when, everybody knew, “Ooh, Jezebel; she's evil.”

1Kings 19:1-2 *And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.*

So, we just read how Ahab took her to wife, and we read how Elijah had slain all the prophets of Baal. It was a great big old show-down. They came down, and they were going to prove who was God. One prophet against eight hundred and fifty prophets--four hundred and fifty were prophets of Baal, and the other prophets were prophets of other gods—and there was one Elijah. They cried all day, and at the end, Elijah said, “Get me twelve bullocks, lay them up, we're going to offer them up to God. We're going to wash them, and let the God who answers by fire be God.” So they did, and God did. So much so, the fire came down from Heaven, the Bible said, licked up the sacrifices, and licked up the water that washed

them. And then the people went off, and they took care of all the eight hundred and fifty prophets that were not prophets of the Lord.

2Kings 9:30 *And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window.*

So, it says when Jehu was coming, Jezebel took some painted, and went all over her face, and then she went and looked out a window. Yeah, we're setting the stage for something here. She went and looked out a window.

1Kings 21:25 *But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.*

So, we see the path was, first Ahab went and got Jezebel, who was from a whole 'nother land. Not some land of our God; she was going to bring in other gods. And, then, when the prophets had a showdown, and the prophets of Baal lost, she said, "I'll take care of Elijah. I'll make sure that I get him killed. And then it says that when Jehu came down, she went and painted her face, and then looked out a window. And it says that there was none like Ahab, who sold himself to do wickedness, and that his wife stirred him up. And, you know, if we want to, we could imagine some bad stuff. We can imagine some bad stuff, but, you know, every now and then you come in contact with somebody and they might say something and, "Ooh! Man, how did you think that you could do something like that?" A whole 'nother level of crazy. A whole 'nother level of wickedness, or sin, or degradation or whatever. Just a whole 'nother level of something that, as bad as you thought you could do, somebody could outdo you. So, here it is: Jezebel. And we learn that she is a queen and a manipulator. She taught all the ladies around how to manipulate the household. How to bring folly, other gods, into her home. "This is how you do it." And, I am certainly not against make up. Make up—she was not the first one to use make-up. Make-up had existed in other cultures before that. They used different things, whether it was berry juice or whatever. They used different things, but she purposefully used it to subvert, to seduce, to change the thought-pattern of things going on. Jezebel. Yeah, Jezebel; that's why she's talked about like this. And the Bible says that she *stirred* up her husband; you know, he might get tired of doing some bad stuff, "Stir him up! I think I can get a little bit more. Ha ha ha!" So, these are the lessons of Jezebel. And, no, of course we're not against make-up if it's used in decency and in order. Amen? And, and, because soap is a form of this; hey, without soap, we're going to have some real offenses going on around here. Hey, you know what? that goes for cologne, too. That goes for perfume; that goes for hair dressings, yes. With decency and in order; with decency and in order. Not used to seduce or subvert or change thoughts to be something that is so ungodly.

And, Jezebel taught something else: she taught you better be careful who you marry. You better be careful who you marry. The Bible says, "...as though it were a light thing..." Ahab brought this in his house. In his house! No, I'm not preaching about marriage; that's not my thing. But I am saying, the Bible says, as though it were a light thing he brought her into his house, so you got to be careful who you marry. Yeah, if you're going to get married, you should have some worn out callouses on your knees. "God! You better bless this, Lord. Lead me, guide me, show me, tell me, use me, God, I need to know!" "But what if I already got married?" Then you ought to put callouses on the other side of your knees. "Lord, we need some help! Absolutely God, because I want You to bless me. I want You to bless my husband or my wife. I want You to bless my children. I want You to bless my house, my car, my job. God I want You to bless my ministry, my life, my health. God, when things aren't going well, I don't somebody like Job's wife, saying, 'Curse God and die,' I need somebody like Debra who can teach me the ways, or Tabitha, who can come over and say, 'We've got the healing of God going on here.' I need somebody

who's going to come over and bring godliness into this house." And that goes for men and women, by the way.

So, that's the lesson that we learn from Jezebel. We've got one more lesson to learn from Jezebel, and this one's in the New Testament. And, after this, there's just one last person.

Revelation 2:18-21 *And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath His eyes like unto a flame of fire, and His feet are like fine brass; I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.*

So, you mean that this Jezebel, who committed this stuff way back in the Book of Kings, the Bible is talking about her way down in the Book of Revelation. Oh, yes. Oh, yes, because God sees everything at once. And God is saying—not to just a group of people—He's saying it to the church. He's saying it to the church. I know your works and your labor, but one thing I have against you, because you're suffering that woman, that Jezebel, who *calls* herself a prophetess, you're suffering her to be in your church. This is what we know as the spirit of Jezebel. The spirit of Jezebel. The spirit of Jezebel teaches that anything is okay. "I can do anything I want to do, and God will forgive it." The spirit of Jezebel says, "You know that God is full of mercy and grace and truth, so whatever you want to do, your loving God will let you get away with it," and it's a lie. He's telling the church—Sunday morning message. Sunday morning message, yeah, but we're talking about lessons from women in the Bible. So ingrained was tis woman that the spirit of her went to one of the churches, as in one of the churches. "Notwithstanding," in verse twenty, "I have a few things against you, because you suffer that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols." So, that spirit is teaching seducing. "Oh, you know, have relations with whoever you want. God will forgive it." The spirit of Jezebel is in the house. Thyatira gots to get it out. And then He goes on to say, in verse twenty-one, "And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she would not." The spirit of saying no to repentance, the spirit of saying, "No, I'm going to do what I want to do," that's the spirit of Jezebel. "I'm going to keep doing what I want to do, no matter what God or anybody else says," the spirit of Jezebel.

One last woman to talk about; lessons from women who teach. Of course, the first one was Debra, governed a whole nation; judged a whole nation. The second one was Jezebel, who taught a whole different level of sin. The last one is a woman here, and this one is a woman that we not only have to admire, but we have to aspire to be like. We actually have to want to be just like this woman.

Part 3: One Last Woman- The Woman We Need To Aspire To Be, Men And Women.

Revelation 21:2 *And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of Heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

It must have been awesome; it must have been glorious, the way he talks about it. That new city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God, from Heaven. From Heaven. Prepared as a bride, which is the church of the Living God. We are the bride of Christ, for the Son of God is the Groom. Prepared, prepared—not any old way, but there's a preparation that happened. There was a washing that happened. Cleansing with the blood. There was an understanding that happened, thank God, with the communion. There was knowledge and acceptance, and agreement; there was a whole adhesion that happened. Coming down as a bride...

And our last Scripture:

Revelation 22:17 *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

Prepared as a bride for her Husband, and that bride says, "Come." That's what evangelism is all about. Learn, get to know the Lord you serve. That's what fellowship is all about. "Come, come, we have some more to learn and talk about. Let's go over the awesomeness of that great God." That's what prayer is all about. "I'm having a problem getting over something." "Let's pray about it, brother," "Let's pray about it, sister," "Let's pray about it, family. We're going to bring God in." And let him that is athirst, drink of the water of life freely. And whosoever will come, let him take of the water of life freely. Prepared to know that the Groom is coming again, and He's coming again to take His bride away. Amen. Give the Lord a praise.

