

Sunday, May 14, 2023

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Title: Women of the Bible - Mother's Day, 2023

Text: Genesis 2:15 – 23 and assorted Texts

Purpose: I want to INFORM my congregation of some unique New Testament women and their ministries to Christ Jesus, the Gospel, and the Kingdom of God."

On Sunday, May 7, we concluded the short series, "People of the Way," with a devotional entitled "That I May Gain Christ" and the text was Philippians 3:1 – 21.

- ~ 1. To Gain Christ I Need to 'Count'
- ~ 2. To Gain Christ I Need to 'Press'
- ~ 3. To Gain Christ I Need to 'Look'
- ~ 4. To Gain the 'Goal'

Genesis 2:15 – 23, in particular verse 18, "*Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."*

~ helper, ezer H5828, from H5826: a primitive root; to surround, i.e. protect or aid: - come to aid, furthered, (he who is, received, send) help (-ed, -er), prevail, protect, support.

Key Word Study Bible by AMG Publishers

1. Anna, a Prophetess and Prayer Warrior:

~ Luke 2:36 – 38, "*And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, (37) and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. (38) And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem."*

~ This is one of the earliest examples in the New Testament of intercessory prayer.

~ Anna (her name means grace) is called a "prophetess." Warren W. Wiersbe states: "Anna was a prophetess, which meant she had a special gift of declaring and interpreting God's message."

2. Samaritan Women Becomes an Evangelist:

~ John 4:1 - 42

~ John 4:28 & 29, "*So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, (29) Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?"*

~ John 4:41, "*And many more believed because of his word."*

3. Mary Magdalene Among Last at the Cross of Christ Jesus:

~ Mark 15:47, "*Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph (see Mark 6:3) saw where he was laid."*

~ Most Bible scholars conclude that for Mary Magdalene to see where Christ Jesus was laid, she must have been among the last at the cross!

~ Mary Magdalene comforted both Christ Jesus and his grieving mother.

4. Mary Magdalene First at the Tomb:

~ John 20:1, "*Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb."*

~ Compare with Matthew 28:1 and Mark 16:1 – 2, Mary Magdalene apparently arrived before Mary the mother of our Lord to aid in proper burial preparations.

~ Ministry of comfort and helps.

5. Mary Magdalene First to Proclaim the Resurrection:

~ Matthew 28:1 - 10

~ Mary Magdalene personally sent by Christ Jesus.

6. Women were the First to Greet Paul and Silas in Europe:

~ Acts 16:13, "*And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together."*

~ Notice that this was a prayer meeting!

~ Rabbis were reported to have a saying, "It is better that the words of the law be burned than be delivered to a woman!" sourced from Warren W. Wiersbe.

The Holy Spirit had no such prejudice!

7. Lydia was the First European Convert:

~ Acts 16:14 – 15, "*One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. (15) And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us."*

Conclusion:

Personal testimony re Rev. Ruby Moore.