



## becoming united in leadership disciplines

### **WOMEN IN THE BIBLE**

#### ***OLD TESTAMENT:***

##### **Eve**

- God's design for the wife to be a suitable helper to her husband—Gen. 2:20-25
- Failure to seek husband's protective leadership—Gen. 3:1-6

##### **Job's wife**

- Gave her husband foolish counsel in his calamity—Job 2:9
- Rebuked by husband to accept both good and adversity from God—Job 2:10

##### **Sarah**

- Urged husband to seek fulfillment of God's promise through human means—Gen. 16:1-3
- Obeyed husband, calling him "lord"—1 Pe. 3:6

##### **Rebekah**

- Lived under father and brother's leadership in home before marriage—Gen. 24:51-61
- Favoritism with son contributed to family strife (helped son deceive Isaac)—Gen. 25:28; 27:5-13

##### **Esau's wives**

- Cause of grief to in-laws—Gen. 26:35

##### **Potiphar's wife**

- Infidelity to her husband harmed the godly man Joseph—Gen. 39:7-20

##### **Moses' mother, Jochebed (with sister Miriam's assistance)**

- Courageously protected baby son Moses—Ex. 2:2-10

##### **Hebrew midwives**

- Feared God, not Pharaoh, in disobeying Pharaoh's command to kill newborn Hebrew baby boys—Ex. 1:15-21

##### **Deborah, Jael**

- Women used to defeat Israel's enemies during the time of the Judges—Jdg. 4, 5

##### **Ruth—book of Ruth**

- Love of a daughter-in-law for her mother-in-law
- Godliness attractive to Boaz, future husband

##### **Hannah**

- Pain of childlessness taken to God in prayer—1 Sa. 1,2

##### **Michal, Saul's daughter, David's wife**

- Protected David from Saul, her father—1 Sa. 19
- Despised David in her heart when he danced before the Lord—2 Sa. 6

##### **Abigail**

- Prudence and wisdom protected her foolish husband and household, and guarded David from needless bloodshed—1 Sa. 25

##### **Women in Proverbs**

- Folly personified as a woman—boisterous, naïve, knows nothing—Pr. 9:13-18
- Adulterous—Pr. 5:3-14; 6:23-29; 7:4-5, 10-27, etc.
- Wisdom personified as a woman—Pr. 1:20-33; 3:13-18; 4:5-9, 13; 7:4; 8:1-36; 9:1-6, etc.
- Mother's appeal to her children to apply themselves to wisdom, understanding, and godliness—Pr. 1:8; 6:20; 31:1
- Wise builds home; foolish tears down with own hands—Pr. 14:1

### **Women in Proverbs continued**

- Warnings against contentiousness—Pr. 21:9,19; 25:24; 27:15-16
- The Old Testament description of an excellent wife—Pr. 31:10-31
- Wife is her husband's own "cistern" and "well," for him alone; husband should rejoice in the wife of his youth and be exhilarated with her love—Pr. 5:15-19

### **Solomon's foreign wives**

- Turned Solomon's heart away from being wholly devoted to the LORD—1 Ki. 11:1-4

### **Naaman's servant girl**

- Faithful proclamation of truth led to foreign leader recognizing YHWH as one true God—2 Ki. 5:1-19

### **Jezebel**

- Destroyed prophets of the LORD—1 Ki. 18:4
- Responsible for death of Naboth in order to acquire his land—1 Ki. 21
- Incited her husband (Ahab, king of Israel) to sell himself to do evil in the LORD's sight—1 Ki. 21:25
- Known for her harlotries and witchcraft—2 Ki. 9:22

### **Athaliah**

- Killed her grandchildren and seized the throne of Judah—2 Ki. 11:1

### **Jehosheba (Joash's aunt)**

- Protected rightful child king Joash from being murdered by his grandmother, Athaliah—2 Ki. 11:2-3

### **Esther (book of Esther)**

- Used by God to protect the Jewish people

## **VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF WOMEN:**

### **Women as stumbling blocks to men**

- Eve—Gen. 3:1-6
- Sarah—Gen. 16:1-3

- Rebekah—Gen. 25:28; 27:5-13
- Delilah—Jdg. 16:4-21
- Bathsheba—2 Sa. 11:2
- Contentious woman of Proverbs—Pr. 21:9, 19; 25:24

### **Unfaithful women/harlots**

- Potiphar's wife—Gen. 39:7-20
- Woman folly of Proverbs—Pr. 9:13-18
- Gomer—Hosea 1:2-3; 3:1-3
- Picture of Israel's unfaithfulness to God—Hosea 2 and others
- Picture of that which hates, persecutes God's people in Revelation (harlot Babylon)—Rev. 17

### **A biblical perspective on a woman's appearance**

- Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord shall be praised—Pr. 31:30
- Adornment should include proper, modest, and discreet clothing; focus is on godliness displayed in good works rather than on hair, jewelry, or expensive garments—1 Ti. 2:8-10
- Adornment must not be merely external, but the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in God's sight—1 Pe. 3:1-7

## **WOMEN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT:**

### **Jesus concern that women be engaged and not distanced or ignorant about the Kingdom of God...**

#### **...through illustrations and teaching with which women could identify:**

- Referred to widow of Zarephath in Old Testament—Lk. 4:26
- Referred to women's work of spinning—Mt. 6:28
- Made comparison to children playing flutes and singing—Lk. 7:31-35
- Referred to Queen of the South judging, condemning that generation—Mt. 12:42

**...through illustrations and teaching with which women could identify (cont'd):**

- Called true disciples his own mother, sisters (and brothers)—Mt. 3:34
- Parable—kingdom of heaven like woman who hid leaven in flour—Mt. 13:33-35
- Concerned for sin against mothers as well as fathers—Mt. 15:3-6
- Joy in heaven over a sinner who repents compared to a woman who finds her lost coin—Lk. 15:8-10
- Used Lot's wife as a warning—Lk. 17:32
- Referred to two women grinding when teaching on His return—Lk. 17:35
- Widow pleading with judge illustrates faithfulness in prayer—Lk. 18:1-8
- Wanted children brought to Him; used children as illustrations—Lk. 9:46-48; Lk. 18:15-16; Mk. 10:13-14; Mt. 19:13-14
- Scribes condemned for devouring widows' houses—Lk. 20:47
- His concern for Jerusalem compared to a hen gathering her chicks under her wings—Mt. 23:37
- Pointed out poor widow putting her only coins into temple treasury—Lk. 21:1-4
- Parable of the 10 virgins describing waiting for Christ's return—Mt. 25:1-13
- Woman in labor used to describe sadness and joy of disciples when Jesus is crucified and raised again—Jn. 16:21-22

**...through interacting with women:**

- The Samaritan woman at the well—Jn. 4:7-42
- Sinful woman in Pharisee's home; became object lesson regarding faith, forgiveness, and love—Lk. 7:36-50
- Canaanite woman commended for her great faith—Mt. 15:21-28
- Forgave adulteress—Jn. 8:1-11
- Accepted Martha's invitation into her home—Lk. 10:38
- Taught with Mary sitting at His feet—Lk. 10:39

- Taught Martha about what is better—Lk. 10:38-42
- Came to Mary and Martha when Lazarus died—Jn. 11
- Defended Mary when she anointed Him before His crucifixion—Jn. 12:3-8
- Warned women of Jerusalem on His way to the cross—Lk. 23:27-31

**...through healing or ministering to women:**

- Healed Peter's mother-in-law—Lk. 4:38-41
- Compassion on widow of Nain in raising her son—Lk. 7:11-17
- Healed Jairus's daughter—Mk. 5:23, 35-42
- Healed bleeding woman—Mt. 9:20-22
- Healed woman bent double for 18 years on the Sabbath, called her a "daughter of Abraham"—Lk. 13:10-21
- Concerned for his mother during His crucifixion—Jn. 19:25-27

**Women who traveled with the 12 apostles and Jesus—Lk. 8:1-3**

**Women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses:**

- Mary Magdalene (from whom 7 demons had gone out)
- Joanna (wife of Herod's steward, Chuza)
- Susanna
- Many others who contributed to their support from their private means

**Women at the crucifixion of Jesus who had ministered to Jesus—**

**Mt. 27:56**

- Mary Magdalene
- Mary mother of James and Joseph
- Mother of Zebedee's sons, James and John (Salome)—Mt. 4:21; 20:20-21; Mk. 15:40

**Women at the empty tomb—Mt. 28:1; Lk. 24:10**

- Mary Magdalene
- "Other" Mary (mother of James)
- Joanna
- Other women

### **Other New Testament women**

- Mary, Jesus' mother—submissive to God as His slave—Lk. 1:27-38
- Elizabeth—being filled with the Holy Spirit, understood Mary was mother of her (Elizabeth's) Lord—Lk. 1:41-45
- Anna—faithful to fast, pray, and speak of Jesus to those looking for Jerusalem's redemption—Luke 2:36-38
- Herodias and daughter Salome (not Zebedee's wife)—when rebuked by John the Baptist, responded with hate and murder—Mark 6:14-28
- Mary, Martha—practice hospitality and devotion to Jesus—Luke 10:38-42
- Mark's mother—hosting prayer for Peter when he was imprisoned—Ac. 12:12
- Servant girl Rhoda (mentioned by name)—Ac. 12:13-16
- Lois, Eunice—trained Timothy in Scriptures from childhood—2 Ti. 1:5; 3:14-15
- Sapphira—lied to the Holy Spirit—Ac. 5:1-10
- Women with the disciples after Jesus ascension; devoted to prayer (incl. Mary, mother of Jesus)—Ac. 1:14
- Lydia—heart opened to the gospel at Paul's preaching, household saved—Ac. 16:13-15, 40
- Tabitha (Dorcas)—sewed clothes for widows—Ac. 9:36-42
- Priscilla—co-labored for the gospel with her husband Aquilla—Ac. 18:2, 18, 26; Ro. 16:3-5
- Weak women, weighed down with sins, always learning but never coming to a knowledge of the truth—2 Ti. 3:6-7
- Euodia, Syntyche—shared Paul's struggle in the cause of the gospel, exhorted to get along with each other—Phil. 4:2-3

### **VARIOUS NEW TESTAMENT TEACHINGS REGARDING WOMEN:**

#### **Women protecting the honor of God's Word—Titus 2:3-5**

- Older women—reverent, not malicious gossips or enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women
- Young women—love husbands and children, be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, subject to their own husbands

#### **Specific instructions for wives**

- Be subject to your own husband, as to the Lord—Ep. 5:22-24; Col. 3:18; Ti. 2:5
- Respect her husband—Ep. 5:33
- be submissive to her own husband—1 Pe. 3:1
- Practice chaste and respectful behavior—1 Pe. 3:2
- Be concerned with her own heart, cultivating the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit—1 Pe. 3:4
- Do what is right without being frightened by any fear—1 Pe. 3:6
- Deacons' wives—dignified, not malicious gossips, temperate, faithful—1 Ti. 3:11

#### **A godly man's relationships with older and younger women**

- As mothers and sisters, in all purity—1 Ti. 5:2

**Single women**—live in undistracted devotion to the Lord by being concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit—1 Co. 7:34-35

**Headship principle**—Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ—1 Co. 11:3

#### **Role differentiation in public worship**

- due to order in creation, and headship principle—1 Co. 14:34-35; 1 Ti. 2:11-12