

# The Power Of A Godly Woman

Aaron Beard  
Trussville  
April 17, 2005

## Introduction:

- A. The family of God is not a family of status or position... The blood of Christ puts us all on equal standing! (Gal. 3:26-29)**
1. Greatness is not dependant upon our nationality, our roles, gender, race, or social status
  2. Greatness is determined by the faithfulness and spirit of servitude with which we carry out whatever role the Lord may give us! (Matt. 20:20-28)
  3. There are a host of roles and needs in congregations: Teachers, preachers, elders, encouragers, personal workers, deacons, those who simply serve, etc.
- B. Some look at Christianity as if it demeaned women and their abilities!**
1. This is because God has placed a limitation on their leadership roles in the work and worship of a local congregation: (I Tim. 2:11-3:1)
    - a. Women are supposed to have a quiet role, to be subject to the man, and to not teach or lead over him → This is God's plan!
    - b. When it comes to the leadership in a local congregation – It is the men who are take the work of elders and deacons, not women – This is God's plan!
  2. Some have gone so far as to accuse Paul of being an sexist pig! Some say worse things!
  3. Someone's value in the kingdom of God has nothing to do with the role they assume but their faithfulness in carrying out whatever role and talent God gives them!
- C. The view the world has on the role God has given women can sneak into our attitudes:**
1. Some have said, "But I'm just a woman! What can I do? I'm so limited!"
    - a. Because their role is sometimes not the leadership roles or the roles that are most visible, some have wondered what they should do!
    - b. This problem is only compounded if our view of the church is limited to a building!
  2. As impact of a godly woman is very well captured by Luke as he records the life of Christ, let's notice the lessons...

## I. Mary → The Impact A Woman Can Make As A Mother

- A. Mary shows us the impact of a woman who is a devoted mother**
1. When Mary considered herself she saw herself as a humble servant (Luke 1:46-48)
    - a. She's not proud about being the "mother of Jesus" but rather thankful
    - b. She sees herself as simply a servant of God – Striving to do God's will
  2. When you study Mary you see a woman with a submissive spirit (Luke 1:38)
    - a. She didn't question God or His will – As a yet a virgin, the news about being "with child" would have been at best shocking and possibly upsetting
    - b. She shows here that she has the "Here Am I Send Me..." mentality
  3. Mary encouraged spiritual activity and priorities in her family (Luke 2:39-41)
    - a. Jesus never knew a time when worship was not part of His life
    - b. They were careful to do ALL the things of the law of God!
    - c. Religious nuts? Maybe its fitting, but Mary and Joseph understood well that they raising up a child and took their work seriously!
  4. Mary demonstrates a self-sacrificial spirit (Luke 2:35)
  5. As you consider these things, its no wonder God chose her to bring Jesus Christ into this world and to raise Him up! A great role as a mother!
  6. Mary is certainly worthy of our honor because of role in Jesus' life and her godly character, however, let's not take this honor past what God's word reveals!
    - a. Some want to worship her, pray to her, and lift her up on a pedestal equal to Christ
    - b. She's not worshipped anywhere in God's word nor made a mediator for prayers
    - c. We have one person who we pray through – Jesus Christ! (I Tim. 2:5) → This is why we say, "In Jesus name" in our prayers
    - d. Prayers of Christians in God's word are always addressed to God! (Matt. 6:9)

## **B. Our society and churches today need more mothers like Mary!**

1. God has a special place and role designed for the mother in the home! (**Titus 2:3-5**)
  - a. This is an unpopular subject in our society! What's sad is that its even unpopular among Christian's whose attitudes are corrupted by the world's thinking
  - b. Homemaker defined: "A stayer at home, domestically incline, keeper at home"
  - c. I don't believe this means she can't work outside the home; however, her main focus, priorities, and desires are for her management of the home
  - d. Question: Do you look for reasons to "escape the home" or do you look for reasons to be there and to fulfill your role as a mother and wife?
2. What kind of example do your children see in you in your life as a Christian?
  - a. Do they see a humble servant of God? A Christian woman who is submissive to God and her husband? Someone who is leading them in spiritual things?
  - b. Mothers have a powerful impact on their children's faith! (**2 Tim 1:3-5**)
  - c. If your children don't see their mother in devotion serving the Lord they will know it's not really all that important to her and it will have an adverse affect!
3. Do you lead your children in doing spiritual things outside of our assemblies?
4. The kingdom of God needs women who will humbly serve, be self-sacrificial for others, manifest spiritual priorities, and be submissive to their husbands in the home

## II. Anna → The Impact Of Love

### A. Anna shows us the power of one woman who truly loves the Lord! (**Luke 2:36-38**)

1. Anna serves as an example to those women who are older in age!
  - a. When the Bible goes out of the way to describe something, it means it! Here it says that Anna was "of GREAT age" → She was an OLD lady!
  - b. She was anywhere from 84 to 91 years young – maybe even more than that!
  - c. She accepted the challenges of age and refused to retire from her spiritual role!
2. When we look at Anna we see a picture of optimism!
  - a. There was no doubt things Anna saw that greatly troubled her in the direction her brethren were going → She could have become very discouraged!
  - b. She could have responded to those around her with pessimism about their future!
  - c. That's not Anna! She was optimistic and pointed to the future in hope!
3. Anna also provided those she knew with a wonderful picture of prayer: (**vs. 37**)
  - a. Prayer wasn't something you just did over meals and at worship services!
  - b. You could honestly say that she "prayed without ceasing" and that she "continued steadfastly in prayer" → Prayer was her link to God and she understood it!
4. When people thought of Anna, they thought about one who loved to praise God (**vs. 38**)
  - a. She probably moved slower than the others and likely had many things ailing, but she joyfully made her way into the temple to worship the God she loves
  - b. As others watched her worship and spoke to her, they were greatly encouraged!
5. Anna also set the example for everyone when it came to evangelism (**vs. 38**)
  - a. She busies herself, not in gossip, but in telling others about Jesus!
  - b. Notice the extent: "Spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Israel"
  - c. She's one whose love for the Lord burned on her heart so much that it was a common thing to find her talking to others about Him!

### B. The example of a woman who truly loves God can yield the greatest of power!

1. In fact, Peter said that this power was so great that it would change people's lives when nothing else would reach them! (**I Peter 3:1-2**)
  - a. Here's a woman who has tried for years to teach her husband, but he wont listen!
  - b. He's not interested in religion, hearing about Jesus, much less obeying the gospel
  - c. Yet year after year he watches her faithfully serve God, sees her love for the Lord, and eventually that cold heart is melted and he too turns to the Lord!
2. There's power in the example of continued faithfulness throughout life! (**Hebrews 12:1**)
  - a. As those who are younger face struggles there's assurance that the battles can be won and that we can be faithful to God throughout our lives!
  - b. Is there a more encouraging sight than watching an aged sister in Christ make her

- way into the assemblies to worship and praise the God she loves?
3. Just as Anna prepared others for the arrival of the Son of God, you too can simply by taking opportunities to talk to others about Him!

### **III. The Sinful Woman → The Impact Of Sincere Repentance**

#### **A. The sinful woman shows us the impact of penitent love! (Luke 7:36-50)**

1. There is no downplaying this woman's sinfulness! No minimizing or romanticizing her sin!
  - a. Jesus is acknowledging that she has a great debt to pay! Her sins were MANY!
  - b. This woman came to Jesus knowing she had much to pay! Her humble and contrite spirit shows that she understood her situation!
  - c. When Simon accused her of being a sinner she would have readily agreed!
2. We see in this unnamed woman what true penitence is all about:
  - a. Her sorrow for her sins overwhelms her! She's standing behind Jesus weeping!
  - b. Instead of taking a seat at the table she sits at Jesus' feet and washes His feet with her hair and her tears! In her shame she
  - c. She anoints Jesus' feet with oil and kisses them! Showing her love & devotion!
3. She went above and beyond the call of hospitality Simon owed Jesus! Note the comparison between Jesus gives (vs. 44-46)
  - a. Simon didn't even provide water for Jesus to wash His own feet! This woman washed His feet with her hair and her own tears!
  - b. Simon did not even greet Jesus with a kiss (likely a holy kiss), yet this woman greeted Jesus by kissing His feet!
  - c. Simon did not even anoint Jesus' head with oil, yet she anointed His feet!
4. What was the difference between Simon and this woman?
  - a. Was Simon more righteous than her? He may have thought so, but they both were in the same boat before the Lord! They both needed Jesus Christ!
  - b. Simon did not see his need for Jesus because he couldn't see his own sins!
  - c. Simon did not have true love and devotion like this woman had!
4. Here a woman comes who had many sins that she was ashamed just wanting to serve Jesus humbly and Jesus walks away impressed by her faith!

#### **B. This sinful woman is still leading many to the feet of Jesus today!**

1. She teaches us so many lessons that we needed reminded of on a regular basis!
  - a. She teaches us about true service, love, humility, and devotion
  - b. She reminds us of what attitude since we are ever before the Lord!
2. This woman puts new meaning to the phrase "Poor In Spirit" (Matt. 5:3)
  - a. It's the mindset of a person who realizes that they are "morally bankrupt"
  - b. We realize our own sinfulness and thus our position before God!
  - c. She realized she was totally dependant upon the grace and mercy of the Lord!
3. Simon probably knew the laws and the prophets well and did many acts of religious service, but it was the penitent spirit that the Lord wanted! (Psalms 51:17)
4. We learn from her about spiritual indebtedness, about the grace of Christ, love, priorities, and of what really meets the Lord's approval!
5. Also, how do we respond to those who seem to be "less righteous?" (James 2:1ff)
  - a. Whether it's the poor or those who we know have many sins in their lives, it is not our place to judge whether or not they'll respond to the gospel!
  - b. Remember, it was the woman eaten up by sin who left that house FORGIVEN not the man who saw himself as being a righteous man!

**Conclusion:** Women are needed and our important in the kingdom! These are but a few of the women who played an important role in the life of Christ! Many more could be discussed.

- The point is made: Greatness in the kingdom of God is not about standing in the most visible role!
- Greatness and usefulness is about doing faithfully whatever the Lord calls us to do!