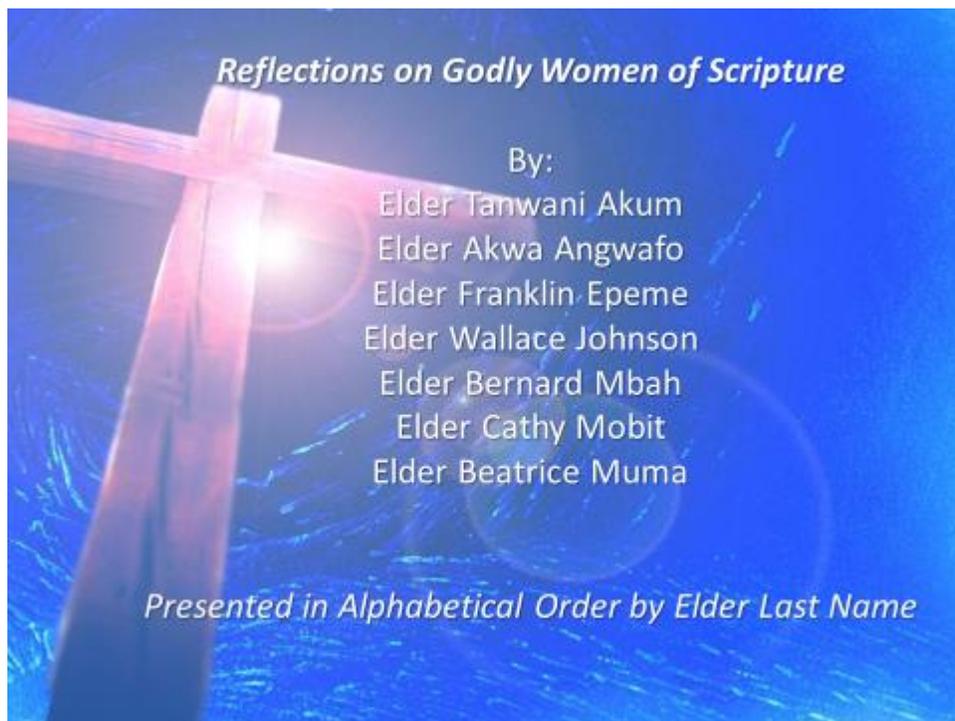


Talking Points:
Reflections of Godly Women Sermonettes
Delivered on Mother's Day May 10, 2020
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Presented here as one collective body of work



Talking Points: Reflections on Mary Magdalene
Sermonette by Elder Tanwani Akum Delivered 05 10 20
Matthew 27: 55-56; Mark 15: 40-47; Luke 8:1-3; John 20: 1-18.

The godly woman I picked is **Mary Magdalene**.

All 4 Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John talk about her.

We can find accounts about Mary Magdalene in *Matthew 27: 55-56; Mark 15: 40-47; Luke 8:1-3; John 20: 1-18.*

Why did I pick Mary Magdalene?

Mary Magdalene showed us how to be a faithful follower of Christ.

Once Mary had an encounter with Jesus, she made Him her Lord and savior.

She turn her life 360 degree, and Jesus became the center of her life.

Mary Magdalene followed and served Jesus ever where He went.

Who is Mary Magdalene?

There are a lot of Marys in the Bible.

The New Testament tell us about six of them.

The Mary we know as Mary Magdalene is one of the six Marys mentioned in the New Testament.

She had the name Magdalene, most likely because, she came from **Magdala**, a town on the Western shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Luke 8:2 tells us that Jesus casts seven demons from Mary Magdalene.

Because of her great gratitude, she became a follower of Jesus Christ.

Mary Magdalene is among the many women who served Jesus Christ during His she Ministry.

Mary Magdalene played a center role in one of the most powerful and important scenes in the Gospels.

When Jesus was crucify by the Romans, Mary Magdalene was there supporting him in his final terrifying moments and mourning his death.

She also discovers the empty tomb, and was the first witness to the resurrection.

Mary's devotion to Jesus put her in the spotlight. Her life and her faith both have a lot to teach us about following Jesus.

Mary Magdalene has been mentioned in the New Testament multiple times.

For this reason, it is only fitting for us to search the scripture and learn the lessons from the life of Mary Magdalene.

Lessons we can learn from Mary Magdalene.

1. We don't have to be defined by our past.

There's a lot of speculation about Mary Magdalene's background.

People have tied her to the sinful woman in Luke 7:36 – 50.

Many assume she was a prostitute or a woman of ill repute.

But there really isn't any biblical basis for portraying her that way.

According to the Gospel of Luke, Mary Magdalene had seven demons cast out of her.

Whatever her background was and what she suffered before meeting her Savior, Mary Magdalene isn't defined by who she was before following Jesus.

All that matters is who she became after discovering Jesus.

Like Mary, we don't have to let our past dictate how we see ourselves. Paul explain it this way,

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

2. Jesus should be the center of our life

After Mary's first encounter with Jesus, He becomes the center that her life revolves around.

Luke tells us in **Luke 8:1-3** that; not only did Mary Magdalene follow Jesus from town to town, but she and some other women helped to support Christ and the disciples.

This role continued throughout His Ministry.

Mark 15:40-41 tells us that Mary Magdalene among other women, were present at the crucifixion, and followed Jesus all the way to Galilee to take care of Him.

It's no surprise that she would find herself at the center stage of the resurrection, too.

We should follow Mary's example.

When we encounter Jesus, we should not simply return to the life we left.

He changes everything.

Our whole life becomes about following and serving Him, just like Mary our story becomes intertwined and indistinguishable from His.

3. God uses the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

In his first letter to the church in Corinth, Paul talks about the gospel as being foolishness.

“But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things, and the things that are not, to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.” (1 Corinthians 1:27-29)

The world doesn't understand it, so they discount and dismiss it.

According to Paul, God did that on purpose.

We see a perfect example of this principle in Jesus' relationship with Mary Magdalene.

In a time when women were seen as second class citizens with no rights, Jesus demonstrated a special love and care for women.

We see this in His choice to reveal Himself to Mary Magdalene first after the resurrection.

This is the most critical event in history, and Jesus made a woman the first witness.

He even encourages her to tell the disciples.

The irony is that, they don't believe Mary and the other women.

We need to be careful not to dismiss things that don't follow our expectations, because God doesn't always do what we expect.

He delights in working out His plan in the most unlikely ways.

He did that through Mary Magdalene, if we'll let Him, He'll do it through us too!

Amen.

Elder Tanwani

Talking Ponto: Reflections on Hannah
Sermonette by Elder Akwa Angwafo - Delivered 05 10 20
1st Samuel 1 and 1st Samuel 2:1,21 (NIV)

The Biblical mother that I would like to speak about this Mother's Day is Hannah

Who is this character?

Hannah was one of the two wives of Elkanah mentioned in the First Book of Samuel and was the mother of the prophet Samuel.

Why is this mother special?

Hannah is a special mother because she had the family commitments of being a wife.

Because of her godliness, devotion, trust and patience, she was blessed by the Lord with a son after being mocked and taunted by her rival Peninnah.

Why did I pick this mother?

Hannah personifies ideal motherhood.

She appears to have been a woman with a good and clean character.

She was very thankful and praised the Lord with a song for blessing her with a son and restoring favor upon her.

What were her virtues?

Hannah prayed continuously for God to give her a son, promising to dedicate him to God.

Her prayers were answered and she brought the child named Samuel to Shiloh for religious training.

How did God use her?

Hannah was in sorrow and longed for a son but couldn't have children.

In her brokenness and pain, Hannah prayed and trusted God's power and ability on her behalf.

She never gave up hope that God would hear her prayer.

And God answered her prayer and blessed her with children.

What lessons can we learn from Hannah?

In the life of Hannah, we see that God knows our story from the beginning to the end.

That everything has a purpose and our trust in Him is never misplaced.

We as Christians have to be consistent in serving the Lord, day in and day out, like Hannah did.

When we make a vow to the lord, we should be committed to carry it out, whether it proves to be an easy thing or a difficult one.

Amen.

Elder Akwa

Talking Points - Reflections on Mary the Mother of Jesus
Sermonette by Elder Franklin Epeme - Delivered 05 10 20
Luke 1:26-38

Good morning congregation.

- There are many biblical mothers, but when you read about this first century B.C. Galilean Jewish woman of Nazareth, married to Joseph, the same lady chosen by God to be the channel through which the Christ will come into the world, then you will realize you've met an exceptional Biblical mother.

- I am presenting Mary the Mother of Jesus the Christ.

- Luke 1:26-38.

- If God could entrust Mary with a task as huge as bringing forth His Only Begotten Son Jesus into the world, it means he must have seen some rare qualities in Mary.

- Mary was ready to be a part of God's plan hence the famous quotation "**Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord, may it be done with me according to your word.**" Luke 1:38

- When told she was to bring forth a child as a virgin.

- Knowing she was pregnant with the most important baby in history, Mary still humbly paid a visit to Elizabeth who couldn't hide her surprise. (Luke 1:39-43)

- A great woman of worship – The Canticle of Mary (Luke 1:45-55)

- A protective mother who fled to Egypt just to protect her son from Herod.

- She was a mother who understood her son.
- This is seen when at the age of 12 years old Jesus stayed back at the temple. Not many mothers would have taken it that lightly.
- She exhibited kindness at the Marriage Feast of Cana, instigating her son to turn water into wine for the feast.
- She ensured Jesus had all the rites as a Jewish child.
- As a good mother she accompanied Jesus throughout His ministry right to the foot of the cross.
- There are not many accounts of Mary's parenting skills recorded as well as Jesus's infancy but as we know, an apple doesn't fall far from its tree.
- Mary played an important role as a mother in shaping Jesus's Character.
- My take from Mary's story is that we should be in God's plan.
- Mary changed her plan to be in God's plan.

Amen

Elder Frankfin

*Talking Points - Reflections on Queen Esther: A Jewish “Mother” for Such a Time as This
Sermonette by Elder Wallace Johnson - Delivered May 10, 2020
Esther 2, 4, 7*

- I. Esther (a beautiful Jewish young woman living in exile in Persia 465 BC) becomes wife/Queen after she is selected by Xerxes II(Ahasuerus) to be Queen after the prior Queen Vashti refused to come when summoned by the King and was banished
- II. Once Queen, her cousin and guardian Mordecai refuses to bow down to and acknowledge the Prime Minister of Persia Haman so he plots to kill Mordecai and all the Jews.
- III. Mordecai then asks Queen Esther to approach the Persian King and convince him to spare the lives of the Jewish people.

Stating in Esther 4: 14: **“Who knows, perhaps you have come to your royal position for such a time as this.”** Keep in mind approaching the King without invitation is an offense punishable by death.

- IV. The story is always retold to show Esther’s courage in going to the King to save her people who are also her blood family, extended family and God’s people.

Esther 4:16 **“...And so I will go to the King which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!”**

What is often lost in the story is how Esther asks the other Jews and her maids to fast and pray before she goes to the king.

The wise “Mother” uses Godly preparation.

- V. Esther reveals Haman’s plot to kill the Jews to the King and he shows her favor. Esther 7:1-10.

Ironically, resulting in the hanging of Haman on the very gallows that were supposed to be for Mordecai.

- VI. When one reads the story of Esther you can see her spirit in John 17:12(NIV) Jesus prayed **“While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.”**

Esther “kept them safe” by the Queenship that was given to her.

- VII. The story of Esther reveals how a “Mother” petitions to save her people despite the desires of evil forces. Esther will risk her life to preserve life.

Thus, the Jews who preceded Christ lived to become part of the lineage of Jesus as God had planned it.

God’s will shall be done by those with Divine Placement for a Divine Purpose preceded by Divine Preparation.

In these difficult times (severe illness, weather and conflict) Christians are promoted and placed “for such a time as this” Like Esther we need to act courageously when God calls.

Amen

Elder Wallace

Talking Points - Reflections on Rahab
Sermonette by Elder Bernard Mbah - Delivered 05 10 20
Joshua 2:8-13, 17-25

Who is this character?

Rahab was a harlot.

She is almost always mentioned in the Bible as “**Rahab the harlot.**”

Some classified her as an innkeeper.

While other religious scholars classify her “**a religious prostitute**” in pagan practices.

Rahab’s life is a great story with many lessons to believers.

You might think from her profession that she was destined to die an early death, to fade away into shame.

She was also a Canaanite-woman a tribe hated by of Israelites.

She was the wife of Salmon one of the two spies who were sent by Joshua.

She was the mother of Boaz. Boaz was the husband of Ruth from whose grandson Jesse was the father of David; through whose line Jesus was born Mt.1:5

Why is this Mother special?

Rahab lived in Jericho in the Promised Land and assisted the Israelites in capturing the city by hiding two men who had been sent to spy the city prior to their attack.

Her most exemplary deed was telling a lie and hiding the spies. Salmon's gratitude for Rahab ripened into love and when grace erased her former shame, he made her his wife.

As a result of her marriage to Salmon, she and her whole family were saved by the agreement made with the spies and her family was included among the Jewish people.

Why did you pick this mother?

The declaration of faith given by this Canaanite woman placed her in the unique position among the women of the Bible.

What were her virtues?

She was richly rewarded for her willingness to sacrifice her life in the cause she knew to be of God. She was a woman of faith. She was a believer.

Rahab recognized the God of Israel. She trusted in him for the righteousness she could not produce in her own life.

How did God use her?

We must always remember that this woman, Rahab, was chosen by Almighty God to be a chosen instrument in bringing about salvation to the ends of the earth.

Though Rahab had been an idolater, she witnessed a remarkable understanding of the Sovereignty of the true God.

She saved the spies sent by Joshua not out of human pity, or because of expediency, but because she knew that they were servant of the Lord.

What lessons can we learn from her?

Rahab became a central strategic figure of incomparable courage as she helped Israel to enter the Promised Land and subdue her own people.

Thus, she and her family were saved.

The woman who had been called a harlot became a godly wife and mother in Israel.

She and her husband became the parents of a boy named Boaz.

And that boy would one day marry a widow woman by the name of Ruth (Ruth 4:5, 10).

Thus, as God worked all things together for the good of those who love Him, God raised up a harlot to become the great-great-grandmother of King David.

From the line of Rahab came the Messiah of Israel, the Savior of the world, our God and King, the Lord Jesus Christ.

And so if you ask me, "How could God possibly use me?"

How could Almighty God, the holy God of heaven, use such a sinner like me?"

Then I will introduce you to the woman of the scarlet cord, the greater grandmother of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

She is not remembered for her sin.

She is remembered for the remarkable transformation.

The word "harlot" is undoubtedly repeated so that you and I will know that whatever we have done, God will forgive us if we come to him by faith. Rahab is the ever-present message of God to us.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

What a manifestation of divine grace it is to find the one – time harlot ranked along with saints like, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses and David.

While the door of mercy stands ajar, the vilest sinner can return and know what it is to be saved.

AMEN

Elder Bernard

Talking Points - Reflections on Sarah
Sermonette by Elder Cathy Mobit - Delivered 05 10 20
Genesis 11 & 17; 1 Peter 3:6

Good morning brothers and sisters in Christ.

The woman I am preaching today on is Sarah. You can find this in Genesis 17 the promises that God promised Sarah.

Sarah is the wife of Abraham.

She was barren for 90 years before she had a son, Isaac, through the promises of God that came through.

Why is Sarah Special?

Sarah was the only woman that God changed her name from Sarai to Sarah in Egypt.

Sarah was the only woman in Egypt that had a baby, Isaac, at her old age.

Sarah was the woman in Egypt that kings and nations came from her.

Sarah was a beautiful woman. You can find this in Genesis 11:27

Why did I pick Sarah?

I picked Sarah to show to the world that nothing is too hard for God to do.

What are the virtues of Sarah?

1 Peter 3:6 says that:

- Sarah was loyal
- Sarah was obedient
- Sarah was faithful
- Sarah was caring

How did God use Sarah?

By fulfilling His promise that she would bear a child at her age.

Lessons we can draw from Sarah?

We draw the lesson that nothing is too hard for God to do. You can find this in Genesis 18:14

Do not depend on your own understanding.

God can use anybody.

It doesn't matter what age, to do His work.

Wives, be submissive to your husbands.

Today are you going to depend on your understanding or God's?

Wait for God's appointed time.

Amen

Elder Cathy

Talking Points - Reflections on Joanna
Sermonette by Elder Beatrice Muma - Delivered 05 10 20
Luke 23:55-56

My special bible character for this mother's day is Joanna.

Joanna means "Jehovah hath shown favor, or the Lord is Grace".

Joanna is a special mother because the Lord showed her favor and she rose up and followed the Lord.

She is one of the women mentioned in the Gospel of Luke who was healed by Jesus and she in turn supported Jesus's ministry and also his disciples.

She accompanied Jesus and his twelve disciples bearing witness to his resurrection.

Joanna remained faithful to God and to the ministry of Jesus Christ.

God used her to minister to others through her faith.

She spread the good news of Jesus's resurrection first to the disciples and to the rest of the world.

Through Joanna we learn that her faith in God also made her brave.

She was with Jesus during his crucifixion not afraid of what might happen to her.

She was able to see the tomb where Jesus' body was laid and Luke 23: 55, 56 tell us that it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James who prepared the spices to prepare Jesus's body for burial.

They were also the first ones to spread the good news of his resurrection.

Joanna teaches the lesson of bravery when we have faith in God.

She remained faithful to God after being healed.

She was not afraid to follow Jesus even through his crucifixion, and was the last one at the cross.

She was also the first to bear the news of his resurrection.

Amen.

Elder Beatrice

**Conclusion/Challenge by Pastor Ed Terry,
Senior Pastor, Mt Paran
Delivered 05 10 20**

I am very proud of our Elders and you should also be proud of your Elders. I hope you will take a moment to call, text, or e-mail your Elders and let them know that you appreciated their messages.

As you go through the week think about the examples each of these Godly women left for us.

Ask yourself am I Mary Magdalen. She greatly appreciated what Jesus did for her and she faithfully followed Jesus even when The 12 disciples deserted Jesus. She is an example of how God can transform your life.

Am I like Hannah? Hannah brought her problem to God in prayer and she trusted God to answer her prayer. She is an example of a prayer warrior.

Am I like Mary The Mother of Jesus? Mary put her plans on hold and fully embraced God's plan for her life?" She is an example of a person totally committed to Jesus.

Am I like Esther? Esther risked her life in order to carry out God's plan to save her people. She is an example of how God puts people in the right place to carry out His plan.

Am I like Rahab? Even though Rahab was a gentile she knew about God's power and how God empowers and protects His people. Remember Rahab is not remembered for her sins but rather she is remembered for her faith.

Am I like Sarah? Sarah was intensely loyal to her husband Abraham and to her son Isaac. Sarah was a woman of faith and she is an example of submission and of God's miraculous power.

Am I like Johanna? Johanna faithfully followed Jesus and financially supported Jesus' ministry. She is an example of a good steward and a faithful disciple.

Remember God designed each of us with specific talents and put us here on earth at specific times and in specific places to do specific jobs for Him. When we fully embrace The Lord's plan for our life we will begin to see God move in our life and our God will do wonderful things for us and our families.

God's word challenges each of us to ask ourselves; "*Have I fully embraced God's plan for my life?*"

Amen

Pastor Ed