

Women In God's Kingdom

Introduction. The modern holiday of Mother's Day was first celebrated in 1908, when Anna Jarvis held a memorial for her mother at St Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia. In 1914, Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating Mother's Day, held on the second Sunday in May, as a national holiday.

Mothers are designated by God as an invaluable part of human civilization. But women in general are phenomenal parts of the kingdom of God, and we're going to see how they were celebrated for their faithful and noble work in the New Testament.

I. Jesus Came To Save Women

- A. Jesus saved the woman at Jacob's well.
 - 1. He provided "living water" for the Samaritan woman (John 4:13-14).
 - 2. She brought others to Christ (John 4:39).
- B. Many women followed Him (men are often stubborn).
 - 1. Women obeyed at Philippi (Acts 16:13-14).
 - 2. Women obeyed at Thessalonica (Acts 17:4).

II. Jesus Commended The Faith Of Women

- A. A woman manifested faith by asking for healing (Matthew 15:27-28).
- B. A poor widow gave more than the rich (Luke 21:1-4).
- C. A woman anointed Jesus before His burial (Mark 14:3-9).

III. Women Help Spread The Gospel

- A. Several women helped Jesus during His ministry (Luke 8:1-3).
- B. Women greatly helped the church at Philippi (Acts 16:15, 40; Philippians 4:3).
- C. Aquila and Priscilla were a strong team.
 - 1. Priscilla and Aquila taught Apollos (Acts 18:26).
 - 2. Priscilla and Aquila risked their lives (Romans 16:3-4).
 - 3. The church at Ephesus met in their house (1 Corinthians 16:19).
- D. Mature, godly women are powerful influences, teaching by example and word (Titus 2:3-5).

IV. Women Serve Under Man's Leadership

- A. Holy men lead, holy women serve (1 Timothy 2:8-15).
 - 1. Verse 8: Men lead with holy hands.
 - 2. Verses 9-10: Holy women dress modestly, and focus on goodness.
 - 3. Verses 11-12: Holy women submit to man's lead.
 - a) "Usurp" means to exercise or assume authority over a man, to have rule or dominion over man.
 - b) The apostle adds that the wife's role of submission to her husband is inherent in creation and fixed by the fact of her deception by Satan.
 - 4. Verses 13-15: Woman's great sin and great service.
- B. Confusion came to Corinth in the form of women leading (1 Corinthians 11, 14).
 - 1. Women were standing to prophesy and praying without showing their submission with the veil (1 Corinthians 11:3-5, 16).

2. The disruptions included women taking the floor to prophesy, and prophets' wives interrogating them (1 Corinthians 14:27-35).
 - a) Verses 27-28: Speak in foreign languages one at a time and interpret, or be silent.
 - b) Verses 29-31: Prophets must not interrupt each other to prophesy; be silent when one speaks.
 - c) Verses 32-33: Prophets must control themselves because God wants peace, order, and edification.
 - d) Verses 34-35: Prophetesses must not prophesy, and prophets' wives not interrogate their husbands.
 - (1) Verse 35 does not mean that all women disrupted their husbands. It was prophets' wives.
 - (2) Other husbands were not addressing the assembly and could not settle all questions.
- C. A woman must not exercise authority over man.
 1. Serving as elders or deacons.
 2. Leading public worship.
 3. Interrupt men who lead.
 4. Teaching classes of men and women together.
 5. Equal voice in public decision making (such as business meetings).
- D. Women can do much within their role.
 1. Confess Christ in order to be baptized.
 2. Confess sin in order to be forgiven.
 3. Participate in singing and other acts of worship.
 4. Participate in classes taught by men.
 5. Teach a children's class, women's class, or a man privately.

V. A Woman's Godly Example Is Powerful

- A. Godly women have converted people primarily by the power of example. They have even saved stubborn husbands (1 Peter 3:1-2).
- B. Godly women are good examples to all of us.
 1. They possess a pleasant, dignified demeanor based on faith in God.
 2. They are faithful under difficult circumstances (widows, wives with unbelieving husbands, sickness, etc.).
 3. They are pure in speech, dress, and conduct.
 4. They are unselfish and sacrificial toward people in need (care for disabled children, husband, relative, etc.).
 5. They are busy inviting people to Bible studies and worship services.

Conclusion. Feminists want to focus on what women can't do and use strife and disunity in the church and the home.

But God set women up to be a beautiful and integral part of the kingdom of God. Let's focus on what they can do and hold that up as the "praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

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