

Jan 31, 2021



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

God never fails to give credit where credit is due

POEM FOR THE WEEK:

O Lord, help me appreciate
The work that women do,
The service given from their hearts,
Their sacrifice for You.
—Sper

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, 2 that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also

(Rom 16:1-2 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Mar 02, 2003)

Series: Call in the New Testament

UNIT 3: The Call of Women

NEXT WEEK

Called to Testify
(John 4:25-42)

Called to Prophecy

Luke 2:36-38; Acts 2:16-21; Acts 21:8-9

Lesson Background and Introduction

Roman society was dominated by men at all levels: business, politics, government, and military. But some women gained influence by their association with powerful men. In particular, some wives of the emperors achieved notoriety and celebrity. Sometimes mothers, wives, or sisters would even appear on the coinage of an emperor. Women also played an important role in the civic religion of Rome, with the revered Vestal Virgins recognized as maintaining the ancient traditions of the city. However, the primary sphere of influence for Roman women was within the home, where they managed the household and saw to the proper raising of children. Although the Greeks had been conquered by the Romans, Greek culture survived and remained influential in reshaping Roman society. The Greeks, however, were not as uniformly tradition-bound as the Romans in this regard. Some Greek women were people of business, and their wealth gave them influence in their communities (compare Acts 17:12). The prominence of even a few women in the New Testament accounts is therefore both surprising and instructive. An aged widow. A group of women who had followed Jesus and remained in Jerusalem after his ascension. A band of four unmarried sisters. The New Testament offers these as examples of first-century women who were endowed with the gift of prophecy. Important questions exist regarding whether the spiritual gift of prophecy continues yet today (compare Zechariah 13:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:8-12; Hebrews 1:1-2; etc.). But those questions, as important as they are, are not the focus of this lesson. The focus, rather, is on using one's giftedness in answering God's call to ministry. As one observer put it, "When the church is working properly, every woman as well as every man will be using at least one spiritual gift in ministry to others in the body of Christ" (see also 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 and 1 Peter 4:10).
(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

One Woman in the Temple - Early in Luke's Gospel, he introduced an older widow named Anna, calling her a prophetess. Anna's husband died after only seven years of marriage. Anna never married again. Instead, she surrendered the rest of her life to God's service in the temple. There she fasted, prayed, and taught those who visited the temple about the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ. When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus into the temple for His dedication, Anna had the privilege of beholding the precious Savior, the Expected One.

Women on the Day of Pentecost - On the Day of Pentecost, Peter delivered a powerful sermon. He clarified the fact and purpose of Jesus' death and resurrection. He also explained the strange events (tongues of fire, people speaking in a language they had not learned) which were presently occurring. Peter quoted the prophet Joel concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit. This Old Testament passage foretold what would happen when Jesus ascended back to heaven: God's Spirit would be poured out on God's people. Before Pentecost, the Holy Spirit operated periodically on special designated occasions. But from this day forward, all those who accepted the truth about Christ and became a Christian, housed the Holy Spirit in their bodies and became His temple. God's Spirit now dwelt in a variety of individuals: old, young, male, female, servants, even Gentiles— anyone who accepted the truth about the Savior.

Four Prophetesses - Paul visited Philip, an evangelist, in Caesarea who had four daughters. Scripture says all four daughters had the gift of prophecy. Scripture gives no further details about the daughters or concerning their ministry involvement, but tradition says they helped their father as he traveled to several cities in what is now Turkey preaching the Gospel. These women and many more are examples of God having no problem calling women to fulfill an assignment for Him. God continues to speak to—and through—women today.
(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Prophecy of Redemption (Luke 2:36-38)

Redemption regardless of age (36-37)

Age should be no problem if living a godly example (1 Tim 4:12)

Age should not hinder following Jesus (Matt 18:10)

Age should be no problem because God appoints His followers (Jer 1:4-8)

Age should be no problem if seeking and using God's wisdom and discernment (1 Kings 3:6-12)

Redemption realized (38)

A redemption that has the Holy Spirit as a guarantee (2 Cor 5:2-5)

A redemption that has a promise of a transformation into glory (Phil 3:20-21)

A redemption that has as a reward a crown of righteousness (2 Tim 4:8)

A redemption because we are God's possession (Eph 1:14)

A redemption by a God that has unfailing love (Ps 130:7)

Prophecy through the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:16-21)

The Holy Spirit poured out (16-18)

Poured out from God (Joel 2:28-29)

Poured out through anointing (1 John 2:20)

Poured out to teach all things (1 John 2:27)

Poured out to save (Ps 20:6)

Poured out to empower to stand firm (2 Cor 1:21-22)

Poured out to open spiritual eyes (Rev 3:18)

The Holy Spirit's empowerment of signs (19-20)

Empowerment prophesied (Joel 2:30-32)

Empowerment given to the apostles (Acts 2:43)

Empowerment provided to confirm God's message (Acts 14:3)

Empowerment to testify about God's salvation (Heb 2:3-4)

The Holy Spirit's conviction to salvation (21)

Conviction sealed by the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13)

Conviction guarded by the Holy Spirit (2 Tim 1:14)

Conviction testified by the gifts of the Holy Spirit (Heb 2:4)

Conviction through preaching empowered by the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:12)

Prophecy for Evangelism (Acts 21:8-9)

Evangelism through fellowship (8)

Fellowship that is steadfast (Acts 2:40-43)

Fellowship with the Holy Spirit (Phil 2:1-4)

Fellowship through righteousness (1 John 1:3-7)

Evangelism prophesied (9)

Prophesied to proclaim the kingdom of God (Luke 9:60)

Prophesied by being called and sent to preach (Rom 10:15)

Prophesied to admonish and teach (Col 1:28-29)

Prophesied that it would require endurance (2 Cor 6:4-10)