

# LOVE IS

## 1 & 2 Corinthians

## Week 18: Women, Worship, and Gifts

A survey of women in the Bible...

- Genesis - Sarah - Hebrews 11:11 - By faith **Sarah** herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.
- Genesis - Rebekah - Romans 9:10-13 - And not only Sarah, but also when **Rebekah** had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad - in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls - she was told, "The older will serve the younger." As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."
- Exodus 1 - **Shiphrah** and **Puah** - resisted Pharaoh and changed the course of the nation
- Exodus 2 - **Jochebed** sees God's hand at work in Moses' life and send him down the river in a basket. **Miriam** watches and intervenes with Pharaoh's daughter.
- Exodus 4:24 - God seeks to kill Moses for not circumcising his son Gershom. **Zipporah** intervenes and completes the covenant sign of circumcision.
- Exodus 15 - Moses leads the people in a song after the Red Sea escape. **Miriam** the prophetess picks up the tambourine and leads the women in singing and dancing. (There are 6 Marys in the NT!)
- Joshua 2 - **Rahab** hears of the coming army and hides the 2 spies. She asks them for protection on the day of destruction.
- Judges 4 and 5 - Deborah is a prophetess and judge (leader) over Israel. **Jael** hammers a tent peg through Sisera's temple into the ground.
- 2 Kings 22, King Josiah finds the long-lost Book of the Law. Knowing the kingdom was in need of revival, he sought the direction of **Huldah** the prophetess.

- Queen **Esther** risks her life to approach King Xerxes and plead for the safety of her people.
- **Ruth** sticks with **Naomi** instead of returning to her own people. They trust God to provide for them - and He does! Both through the allowance of the poor to harvest and also as a kinsman redeemer.
- **Mary** and **Elizabeth** - mothers of Jesus and John. Both found favor with God and have inspiring testimonies.
- Proverbs 31 is a full and rich description of an intelligent and capable wife and mother. She excels in business, planning, and caring for a family. She is generous, wise, and friendly.
- Luke 8 - **Mary Magdalene**, **Joanna**, and **Susanna** provided for Jesus and the disciples out of their own means. We see women also as the first witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus.
- Acts 16 - **Lydia**, a merchant becomes a believer and supporter of the early church in Philippi.
- Romans 16:1 - **Phoebe** is listed as a deacon/servant of the church in Rome. The description of this role is for both male and females.
- 2 Timothy 1:5 - Timothy's faith heritage is his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois.
- **Priscilla** and **Junia** - also listed in the NT as teachers and disciples.
- **Summary** - There is no difference in responding to common needs and life issues between women and men. The role of church elder is one role we see God has tasked men with. My view is that God wants men who can lead, serve, and order their household to do so in the church.

## 1 Corinthians 14:33-35

- In a church dealing with division and distraction, Paul wants to see peace and not confusion.
- Chapter 11 shows women are able to pray and prophesy in the worship gathering, provided that they show submission through head covering.
- "ekklesia" means church, and also gathering
- Seating in the synagogue, and perhaps the church gathering, would have been divided by gender - this is a solution to cross talk
- "silent" - has already been conditionally given to tongues and prophecy