



I Am Woman, Let's Restore

A Biblical Study on Womanhood

Women of Influence: Deborah, Abigail, Esther
Judges 4-5, 1 Samuel 25, Esther

March 26, 2008

1. Deborah

1) Overview of Judges 4-5

2) Points of Significance

- Deborah as a _____
 - She was the only judge who had no _____.
 - She did not _____ God's people or _____.
- Deborah as a _____
 - She spoke _____, but with an attitude and demeanor that did not assert her leadership over a man.
 - She exercised the gift of _____ differently from the men who possessed the gift (see also Huldah in 2 Kings 22:14-20 and Miriam in Ex. 15:20).
 - She was not a _____.
- _____ for the example of Deborah

"She is a prophetess who faithfully delivered God's messages to Barak, courageously accompanied Barak to the place where Barak was assembling troops for battle, demonstrated strong faith by encouraging Barak that the Lord would be with him, and joined Barak in a lengthy song of praise and thanksgiving to God...She is an example for us of faith, courage, worship, love for God, and godly wisdom."

-Wayne Grudem, *Evangelical Feminism and Biblical Truth*

2. Abigail

1) Overview of 1 Samuel 25



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2) Points of Significance

• Notice her _____ in v.3 and v.33:

• Abigail never _____ Nabal.

• Abigail exerted great _____ over David, but did it with great _____, submissiveness, and _____.

"Abigail models for us a pattern of initiative that honors God and blesses others...She honored David with a symbol of respect (bowing low) and then pointed him to God's promises...She shows us that godly women are called to know the Lord and His Word, to take action to right wrongs, and to inspire men to be godly themselves. She is direct but humble, clear but gracious, and bold yet feminine." -Carolyn McCulley

3. Esther

1) Overview of Book of Esther

2) Points of Significance

• Esther was _____ and _____ to the authorities in her life (2:10, 20).

• She was _____, self-sacrificing, _____, and used by God to save her people.

• Notice how she demonstrated her _____:
-She _____ and accepted God's will
-She was confident in _____
-She set the example and mobilized many for _____
-She presented herself to the king in _____

4. Characteristics of Women of Great Influence

1) They exemplify a pattern of _____.

2) They possess a _____ and _____ consistent with biblical womanhood.

3) They model _____, godly wisdom, and a _____ and _____.

4) They _____ the Lord and His Word and _____ men to godliness.

5) They display a _____ tempered by restraint and discretion.

6) They exude a _____.



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5. Applying Biblical Womanhood to All of Life Exclusively from a Biblical Worldview

ADDRESSING FOUR COMMON QUESTIONS:

1) "What about positions of leadership outside of the home and the church?"

- We cannot add to Scripture what is not there.
- For married women, your primary calling is to your husband, children, and home.
- Mature femininity expresses itself in appropriate ways:
 - By our demeanor (tone, style, disposition) we can signal clearly our affirmation of the unique role that men should play in relationship to women (affirming and supporting a man's sense of responsibility to protect and lead)
 - John Piper's Continuum
 - Personal-----Non-personal
 - Directive-----Non-directive
- We have emphasized that it is not about WHAT WE DO, but it's about WHO WE ARE—our inner disposition and demeanor.

2) "Is there any setting where women can teach men?"

- Purpose
- Pattern
- Posture

3) "But what if I know this is what God has called me and gifted me to do?"

4) "What if I am teaching under the authority of my pastors/elders?"

"We understand the Bible to present a beautiful portrait of complementarity between the sexes, with both men and women charged to reflect God's glory in a distinct way. Thus, there are very real distinctions that mark the difference between masculinity and femininity, male and female. Standing on biblical authority, we must critique both the present and the past when the biblical pattern has been compromised or denied. Likewise, we must point ourselves, our churches, and our children to the future, affirming that **God's glory is at stake** in our response of obedience or disobedience to His design." -Albert Mohler



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Week 7 Questions to Ponder

1. After studying Deborah, Abigail, and Esther, which one of these women would you say had the greatest influence on you and your understanding of biblical womanhood? Prepare to discuss this in your discussion group next week.
2. Which one of these women did you know the least about coming into this study? Note one lesson you learned from their example.
3. How did each of these women affirm male leadership?
4. Often times, women step into leadership because of the absence of male leadership. Think about and review the whole counsel of God's Word concerning manhood and womanhood (Genesis through the NT). What are some wise principles that should guide our response as godly women when men are passive and not leading?
5. Think of a man over whom you have had a great influence. Was your influence over him in step with biblical womanhood where, undergirding your influence, there was an affirmation and support of his responsibility to lead?
6. Review the six characteristics of women of great influence. Would your influence and leadership be characterized in this way? What are some *specific* ways you can grow in those areas of weaknesses?
7. Review your answers to the self-assessment questionnaire from the first week. If you would like, take the questionnaire again. Notice if there are any changes to your answers. Be prepared to share your thoughts with your discussion group (they can be more general than specific).
8. Next week we will spend a few minutes discussing older women mentoring younger women in the local church, a specific ministry women are called to in God's Word (Titus 2:1, 3-5). Write your thoughts about the possible ways a church might accomplish this.
9. If you have any questions you would like answered next week, please email them to Amy at achasteen@crosspointclemson.org before next Wednesday.



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