

For Such a Time As This – Great Women of Faith - Miriam

Exodus 15:1-20

We continue this week in celebrating Women's Herstory Month in the midst of Lent. Working from the theme For Such a Time As This. We started with Esther and the story of her fast before standing up to save her people from genocide. Our central points have been (1) Lent is about hearing from God, (2) It is about Letting Go, and (3) It is about preparing for Bold Action. Last week we focused on Hannah who comes to God from a place of pain and is able to (1) Keep it Real with God; (2) Ask for her desire; (3) and Follow through on her promise to God. This week we talk about Miriam

Exegesis

Story of Miriam –

- Miriam story is pretty much connected to her brother Moses.
- History suggests that she is the big sister who hides Moses among the reeds to save him from being killed.
- She like her mother has a number of identities that put her at the bottom of society – young, female and Jewish – but she figures out how to be part of God's plan in the midst of her seeming powerlessness
- The section we read today is about her contribution to the crossing of the Red Sea.
- You will notice that both Chapters 14 and 15 describe the crossing of the Sea. However, 15 lifts us Miriam's role in
- There is complexity to Miriam's story as she struggles to be heard within the context of her two brothers. Most times the scriptures remember the duo of Moses and Aaron. One of the key issues between the Northern and Southern kingdoms of Israel is whether they think Moses or Aaron are the most important in the story.
- However, it is not just a duo but a trio and we need to see Miriam's contribution to understand what it means to lean into spiritual practice as a preparation for bold action.
- So let us imagine her at the front of the line leading the people through; Teaching/ lining the song as in the African-American tradition and then inviting everyone in.

What Can We Learn from Miriam's Story –

1. Miriam connects with God through her creativity. She speaks to God's power and deliverance in the song. Her song is prophetic and she proclaims her trust in God.
2. She finds courage in her creativity. By speaking it before it has happened, she is also able to say – God's got us, We can do this.
3. She uses her creativity to rally the people. She gives the people a vision of what is possible.

Reflections Questions

1. Where have you been finding spiritual growth in creative practice? Spend some time reflecting on how your practice is working or what you feel led to try to unlock the creative voice of God in your life.

2. How has or how can your creative practice be part of helping you find the courage for bold action? How might you grow your practice to move from reflection to bold prophetic witness?
3. Where might God be calling you to share your creative work as a way to embolden and mobilize others? What beginning steps could you take during this Lenten season?