

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

Scripture: reading, studying, memorizing and meditating on the Bible

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” 2 Timothy 3.16

BACK TO SCHOOL – WOMEN’S EQUALITY**STARTER QUESTIONS:**

What when you think of movies, what types of women characters do you see? What do these characters say about our society/culture?

When you think of women in the Bible, who do you think of and why?

The topics in this series are hard to talk about. Why is it important that we do?

MAIN IDEA:

We are currently in a series titled “Back to School” where we are going to study difficult topics from a scriptural perspective. This week, Pastor Hank discussed Women’s Equality and how Jesus changed culture’s perception of women.

KEY VERSE:

“His disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony... They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

John 4:27-42 (NIV)

Let’s look at the 5 purposes from this week’s message:

1. In the Roman World: Baby girls were considered disposable.

In Jesus’ World: All children were considered valuable. (*Have someone read Luke 18:15-16*)

How is valuing children related to women's rights? What are ways we can show that we value all children?

2. In the Roman World: A woman's highest Calling was to bear male children.

In Jesus' World: A woman's highest Calling was to obey God's Word. (*Have someone read Luke 11:27-28 (NIV)*)

Sometimes obedience to God can put us at conflict with the world. Where are places that we might face these obstacles? How can we help one another overcome them?

3. In the Roman World: A woman's worth was based on her value to men.

In Jesus' World: A woman's worth was based on her value to God. (*Have someone read John 4:4-30, 39-42*)

What is significant about Jesus' interaction with this woman at the well? How can we help women redefine their value to God?

4. In the Roman World: Widows were penalized.

In Jesus' World: Widows were honored and cared for. (*Have someone find and read John 19:26-27*)

Widows are just one example of vulnerable women. Who are the vulnerable women in our society and how can we as the church love and support them?

5. In the Roman World: Women were not permitted to give legal testimony.

In Jesus' World: Women were the first witnesses of the Resurrection. (*Have someone find and read John 20:1-18*)

Why do you think Jesus chose Mary Magdalene to testify about his resurrection? How do you think we as a society still devalue the testimony (witness) of women?

Our mission statement at Coastal is:

"To make more and better followers of Christ, and Christ following Churches."

One of Coastal's Values reads:

"In our 21st century post-Christian society, families face challenges that threaten to overwhelm them. We are therefore determined to create a "family-friendly" environment in the church, build healthy families and have strategies for strengthening our families as part of our ongoing ministry."

How does this value relate to supporting women's equality?

FINAL THOUGHTS:

BRINGING people to Christ is really the basic purpose that God has for us. Many of us have specific talents (gifts) that we have been given by God and he intends for us to use these gifts to share the good news. We need to think about how we can help women flourish to expand their gifts in the kingdom of God

READ I Corinthians 12:25-27

“There should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

We are also reminded that we must make sure we “walk the walk” and “talk the talk”. This week, try and see ways where you might view women differently than men. Why? Is it healthy differences or do you see women as weaker and less capable? How do you speak about women? Are you building them up or tearing them down?

How can our group pray for you?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Additional Scriptures about Women in the Bible:

John Acts 1:14; 2:17

Acts 5:14, 8:12, 16:13-15, 17:4, 17:12

Romans 16:12, Philippians 4:3, 1 Corinthians 16:19

BACK TO SCHOOL "Women's Equality"

In the Roman World: Baby girls were considered disposable.

In Jesus' World: All children were considered valuable.

"People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'" Luke 18:15-16 (NIV)

In the Roman World: A woman's highest Calling was to bear male children.

In Jesus' World: A woman's highest Calling was to obey God's Word.

"As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, 'Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you.' He replied, 'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.'" Luke 11:27-28 (NIV)

In the Roman World: A woman's worth was based on her value to men.

In Jesus' World: A woman's worth was based on her value to God.

"His disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 'Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?' Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony... They said to the woman, 'We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.'" John 4:27-42 (NIV)

In the Roman World: Widows were penalized.

In Jesus' World: Widow's were honored and cared for.

"When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, 'Dear woman, here is your son.' And he said to this disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from then on this disciple took her into his home." John 19:26-27 (NLT)

In the Roman World: Women were not permitted to give legal testimony.

In Jesus' World: Women were the first witnesses of the Resurrection.