

The Book of Luke 2Q 2015 Lesson 6 Women in the Ministry of Jesus

I received this email recently:

I write this to you from The Netherlands. My wife and I watch your ministries every Friday (one day before Sabbath). I got to know you through my wife. I met my wife in The Netherlands in the summer of 2013. She is an American. We fell in love and married last year in Houston, Texas. For the first time in my life, I gave my whole heart to a woman and decided to drop myself in to the unknown.

When I met my wife, I was an atheist. As a man of science I could not believe in metaphysics. I considered people who believed in God, as morons who did not have enough education to understand the world and those who believed in God were afraid of life. You have to understand Dr. Jennings: I have written a book where I even advocate being an atheist.

Meeting the love of your love changes a man. How could it be, that at that moment in time in The Hague that we could meet and fall in love? Does coincidence exist? Leap of faith?

Couple of days after we met, we were walking in The Hague and I am not quite sure, but religion became a topic. I said to her: " religion is an opium for the people to stay stupid". At that moment, I didn't know she was Seventh day Adventist. She responded: " well, I don't agree with you because I have felt that God exists..."

I started to get interested. Not because I didn't know what is written in the Bible or anything else. No, I started to get interested because here she was: an intelligent lady, who had an academic background that believed in God.

After that, she went back to US and through modern technology (Skype and Whatsapp), we kept in touch and my love for her grew every day. She went to church and because time difference, I had to stay up bit late, otherwise, I wouldn't talk or see her. She told me every week about the topic of the church.

Well, to keep the story short, I got baptized in the church and got married with the love of my life. I did that at first because the parents of my wife did not want her to marry a guy who wasn't a Seventh day Adventist. So, I did that, because I loved her and there isn't a thing I wouldn't do for her.

Since summer last year, we watch your ministries in The Netherlands. My wife really respects you a lot! At first I didn't like watching your ministries, to be honest. But after a while, I understood what Christianity is. Your words corresponded with my brain. I went from an atheist to a Seventh day Adventist. For that, I am grateful. The process of how and why is to long to write. I could write a book about this! We will keep watching you and perhaps we see you on

YouTube talking about this email.

SABBATH

Read memory text, Galatians 3:26-28: “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus... There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

What does this text mean?

Paul cites three major divisions of society, three areas that in his day caused division, discrimination, and conflict. Do you notice anything about these three divisions? They are representative of all types of divisions:

- Slave and Free – are divisions caused by the choices of sinful human beings to act in selfishness
- Jew and Greek – are the divisions caused by sin affecting nature and the changes over time of genetic expression and language evolution, i.e. the changes in race and culture
- Male and Female – are the divisions created by God into the creation to start with, which were intended for mutual benefit, but which have been exploited because of sin. In the beginning there were two, but the two were to be one. This unity of the two, male/female was broken by sin, but in Christ is to be restored.

Other examples of divisions that impact humanity and in which category to they fall?

- Religious division – manmade (slave and free category)
- Age divisions – manmade biases to a biological reality
- Political division – manmade
- Sports team division – manmade
- National division – manmade
- Sexual identity division – mixed category, some manmade as Paul speaks about in Romans, others a result of sin damaging God’s creation with genetic and biological defects.

What causes conflictual division? Fear and selfishness, which results from what? Believing lies about God that break the circle of love and trust. We see others, with differences, not as individuals to celebrate, love and promote, but as competition, threats, and objects to either own, control, exploit, or destroy.

When people don’t fit our mold we, rather than re-examining our beliefs and views to see if they are in harmony with God’s design, too often seek to find fault in what is different, devaluing others.

For instance:

In 1851, Samuel A. Cartwright, a Louisiana surgeon and psychologist, published a report in the *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal* on what he deemed to be common diseases among black people in the South.¹ One of them was drapetomania, described as “the disease

causing slaves to run away.”

During the Civil Rights Movement, some doctors began diagnosing Black-Americans in the South who were advocating for civil rights with a subtype of schizophrenia, characterized as having a desire to advocate for their rights.²

Not to be outdone, after several racial killings, a group of Black psychiatrists sought to classify extreme bigotry as a mental disorder.³

1. Cartwright S. Report of the diseases and peculiarities of the Negro Race. *New Orleans Med Surg J.* 1851;691-715.
2. Metz J. *The Protest Psychosis: How Schizophrenia Became a Black Disease.* Boston: Beacon Press; 2011.
3. Bell C. Racism: a mental illness? *Psychiatr Serv.* 2004;55:1343.

But, back to the issue of women in society:

Are women morally equal to men? Are they treated equally in societies around the world?

- Until the 20th century, U.S. and English law observed the system of coverture, where "by marriage, the husband and wife are one person in law; that is the very being or legal existence of the woman is suspended during the marriage". (Blackstone, William. "Extracts from William Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England 1765-1769". Archived from the original on 5 October 2008. Retrieved 15 March 2015.)
- U.S. women were not legally defined as "persons" until 1875 (*Minor v. Happersett*, 88 U.S. 162). ("Legacy '98: Detailed Timeline". Legacy98.org. 2001-09-19. Retrieved 2010-11-20.)
- French married women obtained the right to work without their husband's permission in 1965, and in West Germany women obtained this right in 1977. During the Franco era, in Spain, a married woman required her husband's consent (called *permiso marital*) for employment, ownership of property and traveling away from home; the *permiso marital* was abolished in 1975.
- Women in parts of the world continue to lose legal rights at marriage. For example, Yemeni marriage regulations state that a wife must obey her husband and must not leave home without his permission.
- In Iraq, the law allows husbands to legally "punish" their wives.
- In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Family Code states that the husband is the head of the household; the wife owes her obedience to her husband; a wife has to live with her husband wherever he chooses to live; and wives must have their husbands' authorization to bring a case in court or to initiate other legal proceedings.
- In Afghanistan, a wife who leaves her marital home risks being imprisoned for "running away".

Do you think women were treated better in Christ's day?



A common prayer of Jewish men was “Blessed are you, Lord, our God, ruler of the universe who has not created me a woman.”

Why do you think men prayed thanks that they were not created a woman? Was it because they recognized how hard the lives of women were/are? How unfair the lives of women were/are?

What do you think it means that they didn’t pray, “Blessed are you, Lord, our God, ruler of the universe, help me bless and improve the lives of women.”?

Do you think it means that they thought the way women were treated was in harmony with God’s will? How could they think this? By viewing God’s law as imposed and God as a dictator, this is why God got blamed for so much in OT times and even today.

- The sovereignty of God is misconstrued through imposed law lenses to be God imposing outcomes and causes events
- So, people think if a person dies in an accident “God took them” or “What sin did they have that God didn’t protect them?”
- If a person gets a disease or sickness, “God is punishing them for some sin.”
- If a natural disaster happens, “God is punishing”
- When the prophet Micaiah spoke to Ahab he told the king that the false prophets were lying to him. (1Kings 22) But how? By telling him that God sent lying spirits into the mouth of the other prophets. Why did he say it this way? Because King Ahab viewed God as in control and causing events, causing outcomes.
- Any examples today?

What about the treatment of women today? Are women treated as equals in the church today?

Should we have women pastors? What about a female president of the local conference, union, division or General Conference?

Does God discriminate based on gender?

What is the only true, reliable, valid point of discrimination of people in general? Harmony or disharmony with God and His law of love! It is about character, not gender.

This is what Paul is saying in our memory text, when we are united in Christ, partaking of the divine nature, we have new hearts, selfishness is replaced by love and we live in unity with God and each other.

But selfishness in the heart causes damaging division, including religious division and division in the church, but argued on the basis of righteousness. It is some of the grossest misrepresentations about God. These types of arguments have been made about blacks, women and other groups.



It is and always has been about character thus the Bible only has two groups:

- Wheat and tares
- Fruitful vine and withered vine
- Sheep and goats
- Righteous and wicked
- Saved and lost
- Living and dead
- Christlike and Satan-like

So how did Christ treat women? As equally valuable, as human beings made in God's image with worth possessing minds that think and reason and understand.

There are some quantifiable differences between men and women:

- Physically women are smaller and less physically weaker
- Women can give birth men cannot
- Women have barr body in every cell, which is turned off randomly, some cells have X chromosome from father turned on, while others from mother. This can be one factor why women are more susceptible to autoimmune diseases.
- If a woman has given birth, some fetal stem cells transferred into her blood and will become part of her body, differentiating into various cells. Another potential reason for autoimmune diseases.
- Male and female brains are different.
 - Mathematical abilities. An area of the brain called the inferior-parietal lobule (IPL) is typically larger in men, especially on the left side, than in women. This section of the brain is thought to control mental mathematical ability, and probably explains why men frequently perform higher in mathematical tasks than do women. The IPL on the right side processes sensory information, and the larger right side in women allows them to focus on, "specific stimuli, such as a baby crying in the night."
 - Men process information more efficiently in their left hemisphere, women process information equally efficient in both hemispheres.
 - This contributes to women being more relationally oriented, empathic and more likely to want to comfort, while men are more task oriented.
 - Do we see this difference in the relationship between men and women in the life of Jesus?
 - Who stayed by the cross and who fled?
 - Reaction to stress. Men tend to have a "fight or flight" response to stress situations while women seem to approach these situations with a trying to befriend the person
 - Do we see this in the difference of men and women in the life of Christ?
 - Nicodemus sought Jesus out at night fearful of being seen
 - Mary came into the middle of a meeting to anoint Jesus' feet
 - Those who tended the swine ran from Jesus and their owners asked Jesus to



- leave the region
- The woman at the well asked Jesus into her heart and went to her town and told them all He had done bringing them to meet Jesus

Are we bound by our biological differences? Or can men and women both respond positively to Jesus, or reject Him, regardless of their gender?

SUNDAY

What do you think of Sunday's lesson? Women at the advent of Jesus? Elizabeth, Mary and Anna

Here are three faithful women who trusted God, and despite a culture of bigotry, discrimination, male domination, they didn't become embittered and were thus able to be part of God's team.

Do you think Elizabeth and Mary would have been useful to God's cause if they allowed the abuse and mistreatment done to women to fill them with anger, resentment and bitterness?

What about today, when we are done wrong, is it important to not allow the sins of others to infect our hearts and minds?

What is God's weapon for preventing the sins of others from infecting our minds? Forgiveness, loving others and having an attitude of forgiveness towards them – not making excuses for their wrongs, but refusing to have your own heart and mind poisoned by their wrongs.

MONDAY

The lesson points out, in Christ's healing of people, compassion was more important than ceremonies.

This is because Jesus was operating at level 6&7, the reality of God's kingdom of love, built upon the law of love, understanding humans are deviant from the design and in need of healing, restoration. Thus, His focus is about restoration and healing, not rule keeping.

We see this all through His ministry.

- In the Sermon on the Mt. He contrasted behavior from heart motive, "you say if you commit adultery..."
- He changes their level two thinking about eye for an eye and tells them to love your enemies, to give your coat, to walk an extra mile
- He tells them no merit in their legal fasting to get righteousness points in their legal accounting system, but to do the fast of self-denial and actually bless others, give to the needy, and that stores up treasure in heaven
- That it is the heart, the character that determines the fruit of the tree and the behaviors ultimately reveal what is in the heart



- Thus He says in Mt 5:17-20 that our righteousness must be more than the legal rule keeping of the Pharisees. Here is from *The Remedy*:
¹⁷ "And don't think that I have come to destroy what the Old Testament (Torah and Prophets) taught about God and his methods; I have not come to destroy them but to fulfill them.¹⁸ Here is the simple truth: heaven and earth would disappear if even the slightest change to God's design protocol for life, what you call his Law, were made. I am not here to destroy the Law, but accomplish everything it requires.¹⁹ Anyone who violates God's design (law) and teaches others to do so is out of harmony with heaven, but anyone who practices God's methods (law) and teaches others to do so is in harmony with the kingdom of heaven.²⁰ I tell you plainly, if your characters are not renewed with righteousness surpassing that of the Pharisees and lawyers, it simply won't be possible for you to enter the heavenly kingdom of love.

In last week's lesson on Wednesday the lesson pointed out how the Pharisees criticized Christ's disciples for picking heads of grain on Sabbath.

At what level were the Pharisees operating? Level four and below, law and order, legal religion, imposed law constructs.

At what level was Christ operating? Design law, God's design for His creation, thus it was better to provide what was necessary for human health and welfare, than to keep a rule which injured God's Spirit Temple.

The Pharisees, would rather keep a rule in order to honor the little theater, the object lesson, the shadow, the stage play, the physical building built out of inanimate material, but Jesus pointed out that these are just shadows of a larger reality and David did not sin by taking the bread used in the play only by priests, and using it to provide sustenance to the true temple of God.

Are there any examples today where people get confused between ceremony, metaphor, stage play, simile, analogy, parable, and reality and are injured by staying stuck in the metaphor?

- Viewing God's Sovereignty through human authority models
 - Sees God imposing, rather than God ruling through His Design of love.
 - Romans 9 – Paul makes the point God has mercy on who He has mercy... The point, the Jews were jealous that Gentiles were being included in salvation and Paul argues, who are you to argue with God's Sovereignty, God's way is the way of love, inclusion, healing.
 - But, some view these passages through human authority models and view God as imposing and predetermining some for salvation and some for damnation – in other words interpret it as God being restrictive.
- Viewing Jesus' victory at the cross through legal metaphor
- Thinking there is some power to cleanse from sin in religious ritual, whether baptism, communion, or foot washing.
- Thinking the "name" of Jesus means the syllables used when speaking rather than the character



of God – thus think if they put a tagline at the end of a prayer, “in Jesus name” they have prayed in Jesus name.

- Believing the OT feast days have some actual value other than a teaching object lesson and thus promote the idea they must be observed in order to experience salvation
- Others?

The bottom pink section states, “In these stories, it was the power of Jesus’ words that brought a dead son back to his mother and a dead daughter back to her father.”

What do you think the lesson authors mean?

If they mean, this was done at Jesus command, by the exercise of divine energy, without the use of CPR, ventilators, organ transplants, crash carts, defibrillators etc, then absolutely right.

But we MUST avoid the idea that the power was in the words. We must avoid going down the trail of searching for the right combination of words, incantations, mantras in order to harness supernatural power. It wasn’t the words that had power; it is God who stood there in human flesh that has power!

TUESDAY

The lesson points us to the story of the woman who anointed Jesus feet with expensive oil and how she was looked down upon by Simon the Pharisee and even the Apostles.

Some suggest this woman was Mary Magdalene, who was sexually exploited by her uncle Simon, who was the one hosting the feast as a way to try and compensate Jesus for healing him of leprosy. She was the sister of Lazarus, whom Jesus raised from the dead, and the same woman caught in adultery and thrown down before Jesus. Jesus not only saved her life from the mob, but treated her with grace and dignity and for the first time since she was abused made her feel like a person, someone to be loved for who she was not exploited for her body and then criticized as a defiled sinner.

Now, considering all of this, knowing the biases against women, knowing the biases against prostitutes, do you think it took courage to go in and do what she did? What motivated her? Love! Love casts our all fear!

Do you think, if all these elements are true, or just some of them, she had great love for Jesus?

And how did Jesus respond to Simon? “He who is forgiven much loves much.” Which Simon took to mean what? But what was Simon missing? And thus Simon failed to love much.

Read bottom pink section, “It’s easy...” Is there a difference between judging others and understanding the reality of the character and condition of others, i.e. diagnosing others?



Judging comes from insecurity and a need to promote self by putting others down and faultfinding. It leads to discrimination, or actions of punishment, chastisement, shunning, expulsion etc.

Understanding reality, the actual condition of the other person, is motivated by love, and leads to wisdom in dealing with others, first not trusting the untrustworthy, but second, setting healthy boundaries designed to lead an untrustworthy person to Christ for healing and restoration.

WEDNESDAY

The lesson asks us to consider Martha and her concern for service and hospitality, to the point of criticizing Mary for not helping out in the kitchen.

THURSDAY

The lesson asks us to consider the story in Luke 1:1-8, from *The Remedy*:

¹Then Jesus told a parable to his interns to help them understand the importance of regular conversations with God and not to quit talking with him.²He said: "There was a judge who didn't believe in God or care about the welfare of people.³And a widow, who had been exploited, kept petitioning the judge to do what was right and restore what her adversary had taken.

⁴"The judge refused for a long time. But he finally said to himself, 'Even though I don't believe in God or care about people,⁵I am tired of this woman bothering me, so I will do what is right and she will finally leave me alone!'"

⁶Then the Lord explained, "Take a lesson from this unjust and godless judge.⁷If he, not caring about anyone but himself, finally did the right thing, won't God set all things right for his children who cry out to him constantly? Will he ignore them?⁸I tell you truly, he will set all things right, and quickly. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any on earth who trust him to set things right?"

FRIDAY

Read and discuss question 2

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Blood drives for Linda Jennings!

Hamilton Community SDA Church
May 2, 2015 Hours: 9-2 Blood mobile in parking lot
Call 756-0966 for appointment (or)
Sign up at church on May 25th

Collegedale SDA Church(on SAU Campus)
May 9, 2015 Hours 10-3
Sign up at church for appointment!
Note: This blood drive is the churches regular date for their
blood mobile but it will benefit Linda Jennings.

The Remedy – Dr. Jennings’ New Testament Paraphrase is now available on our website, BOTH the Android and Apple Version is not Available!

- This is a **FREE** app
- Please read the preface to understand the approach to this paraphrase
- We have cards available to share with others and will ship them at no cost
- Also, if you find typos please email those to us so we can fix any missed typos

CARDS – If you have any of our ministry business cards please check to see if they have our current address: PO Box 28266 Chattanooga, TN 37424. If they are the old ones please discard them. We will be happy to send new ones, just email us. Thanks!

Opportunity to Share:

The General Conference of SDA will have its meeting (which occurs every five years) in San Antonio Texas, July 1-12, 2015. 50,000-70,000 Adventist from all over the world are expected to attend. This presents an opportunity to share this healing message about God in a most impactful way.

We plan on giving away our DVDs, Dr. Jennings’ Book *Could It Be This Simple?* and other materials. This will be an enormous project. If you would like to share in this opportunity, you can do so by making donations to *Come and Reason Ministries* either via Paypal, or check mailed to our address below.

New Mailing Address: PLEASE UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS BOOK:

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Thanks to Samuel Jacobs who manages distribution for us.

And in Australia or New Zealand email australia@comeandreason.com and Thanks to Simon Harrison who manages our ministry down under. Dr. Jennings will be going back to Australia/New Zealand spring 2015. If you are interested in Dr. Jennings speaking at your group please contact Simon at this email address.

May 1-2 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Springwood SDA Church Brisbane, Australia.

May 3, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at St Andrews Anglican Church Lutwyche, Australia.

May 5-9, 2015: Dr. Jennings will speak in Australia specific venues pending for these dates

May 11-12, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Peer Psychology Group Seminar, Melbourne, Australia, For info contact Tamara Auora-McCulloch at ladytamara.amcc@gmail.com

May 15, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Avondale College, Cooranbong, NSW, Australia.

May 16, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be doing an all day seminar at Maitland SDA Church, Australia

May17-20, 2015: Dr. Jennings will be speaking to the Adventist Education Department, Auckland, New Zealand.

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