



EVE, RAHAB AND MARY

(Reflections Conference 16 May 2009 2009 – Highlights)

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In meditating / reflecting on the Women's Conference over the past few days in anticipation of sharing with a group of ladies, I once again considered the very beginning of creation (Genesis 2 v 7 and 8) where we read how God created man (out of the dust of the earth) and placed him in the Garden of Eden.

The Word of God tells us in Genesis 2 v 18 "*and the Lord God said 'It is not good that the man should be alone, I will make him a help meet for him'*"

Verse 21 says the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept and He (that is God) took one of Adams ribs and closed up the flesh instead thereof. And with the rib which the Lord God had taken from man, God made a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said she shall be called **Woman** because she was taken out of man.

The Woman, whom God created from the rib of man, **WAS A PERFECT** creation. She found herself in a very fortunate position. She literally had everything a woman could desire - at her finger tips. Yet she was not satisfied. Not content with what she already had. She still desired to have the one thing that God said they were not to eat of - the **Tree of Knowledge of good and evil**. What does **the Woman** do, tempted by the serpent, partakes of the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil, and in doing so throws away a lifetime of "a good life". The Word of God tells us in Genesis 2 v 17 that ... "*in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die*". In the next few verses God speaks His judgement over Adam and **the Woman**. Adam by the sweat of his brow he will till the soil and live thereby. The scripture says that from the ground Adam was taken and will return. **The Woman** will "*with pain give birth to children...*"

The very thing that gave life to Adam - the dust of the earth - became his "*punishment*" and the very thing that gave life to **the Woman** - the flesh - became her "*punishment*".

It is then at this point that Adam names **the Woman** - **EVE** (because she was the mother of all living) - See Genesis 3 v 20.

The meaning of the name **EVE** is "**life giver**".

How ironic, Eve (meaning lifegiver) by one act of disobedience, allows sin to enter the world which brings death upon the whole of creation - **no more a life giver BUT now a murderer**.

How sad - **Eve** the one who was given much, who had it all except for one thing - lost it all in one moment of temptation.

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I also considered **Rahab**, you can read about her in the book of Joshua chapters 2 and 6.

The meaning of the name **RAHAB** is **proud, strength**.

We are told that she was a woman of the night, a prostitute.

What made **Rahab** turn to prostitution / night-life? Was it her circumstances? (She had a family to care for). Could it be pride - not satisfied with what she had - had to have the best in life.

You ask "what good did **Rahab** do?" Well she helped to protect the two spies that Joshua sent to spy out the land. She hid them in her house from the king of Jericho and eventually helped them to escape by letting them down by a cord through the window of her home.

She reasoned with the spies she helped and was able to secure her safety and the safety of her family. She was rewarded greatly - her and her household were saved. Remember earlier I mentioned that the meaning of her name is proud and strength? Well she must have been a woman of strength to confront those spies to work out a deal - with much success. All she had to do was to secure a scarlet cord in the window.

And did she need the protection of the Lord, because when those Walls of Jericho would go tumbling down, there was definitely no other guarantees that she and her family would be saved.

My, how, by hearing of the things that God had done for his people, **Rahab** had responded to do the right thing and provide a hiding place for the spies. She worked out her own salvation.

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Finally, I considered **Mary**, the mother of Jesus. A virgin engaged to Joseph - found with child by the Holy Ghost – an embarrassment to Joseph who even considered to put her away (divorce her) secretly.

In Luke 1 v 29 we read how **Mary** was greatly troubled at the words of the angel who appeared to her and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. As the angel shared with **Mary** the news of how she had found favour with God, how she will bear a child, reality of just what was to happen caused a change of heart and **Mary** ended up acknowledging that she is "*the Lord's servant*". In Luke 1 v 46 - 49 we read how. **Mary** said: "***My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: For He that is mighty hath done great things and holy is his name***"

WHAT A CHANGE OF THE STATE OF HER HEART - WHAT JOY!!!! Even the unborn child of Elizabeth leapt for joy at the news **Mary** conveyed to her. WOW!!! What an honour - a young woman, with no title, no degree, nothing - chosen to bear the Saviour of the world; chosen to be the one to be the bearer of the only One who can give life to a lost world - Not only life but life in abundance.

What would you have done???

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You may be an **Eve**, have all that life has to offer you - nothing wanting, reached the ultimate goal in your career, and yet have not found satisfaction. Maybe you have taken things in your own hands, to make things work and find no answers.

Or you may be a **Rahab** not satisfied with the fact that there is a way of escape, rather you will do it your way. You may feel that you are not accepted by society or people you considered friends or even your own family.

Or you may be a **Mary** - in your eyes your life is OK. You have been a perfect citizen. No one can point a finger.

Today, I want to challenge you. Whatever your circumstance is, whatever situation you may find yourself in don't try and find a solution by turning to the world or religion - don't try and do it your way. The world and religion can only provide a temporary solution.

The Word of God tells us that:

1. We all have sinned and come short of the glory of God;
2. We need to call on the name of the Lord to save us;
3. We need to confess our sins - He is faithful and just to forgive us;
4. Those that come to Him, He will in no wise cast out - it is for the "*whosoever that will come*" to come.

Are you willing to come to Jesus today and make Him Lord and Saviour of your life?

As we listen to the testimony of others how God has changed their lives and made a difference. As you listen to the sharing of God's Word through the rest of today, I pray that you would allow the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart and that you would give your life completely to Jesus and allow him to make the difference.

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Women are: soft, mild, pitiful, and flexible, they are the kind, civil, obliging, humane, tender beings, inclined to be gay and cheerful, timorous and modest.