

- **\*READ Titus 2:3-5/PRAYER\*** You might recognize the logo that is being used as the background for the slides this morning, and you would be correct if you're thinking that it looks an awful lot like the new Wonder Woman logo. In less than a month's time, a new Wonder Woman movie will be released to movie theaters around this country. Of course, this movie has been met with a great deal of excitement. One reason for the excitement is that this movie and its plot feeds into the desire of many for women to be cast in stronger leading roles. Many people want to see more woman super heroes and the like because they feel as if women are under appreciated or don't receive the same opportunities that men receive. These types of feelings are what fuel the gender equality movement that can be seen around this country of ours.
- But the truth is that this is not anything new. In fact, feminism has been trying to create "equality" among men and women for years. The feminist's perception is that women are not treated as equals with men. They don't have the same opportunities, wages, or other such things that men are offered. And don't even get them started on the fact that men can't have babies. Then of course there are the reproduction issues where feminists scream and demand their right to do with their bodies as they would like...even if that means taking the life of an innocent baby. These things are constantly on the mind of the person who is sympathetic to the feminist cause.
- So it should make perfect sense that a movie such as this with the woman being the focal point would gain a strong cheer of support from the women's rights and equality crowd. Look at this strong woman with her magical bracelets, lasso, and mad fighting skills. Look at this woman save the day! All the while this is done to condition our minds into thinking that these types of things are what make women important or worth while. Can I suggest to you this morning that this perception of what makes a woman wonderful is so far from Scripture that it might as well be in another galaxy or universe?
- What I mean is that a wonder woman is not what Hollywood would so strongly push her to be, but instead a truly wonderful woman falls into the mold of what we see in Scripture. Wonder women are those women who are godly in their character and act in such a way that those around them are blessed and lead closer to God. Wonder women don't need magical bracelets or lassos. They don't need superhuman powers. Instead, they just need to strive to be like Jesus. I want to focus on women this morning and encourage each one here this morning to strive to be more like the wonder women of the Bible instead of the wonder women we might see on the big screen. But this lesson is also important for the even in attendance because we need to be encouraging the ladies in our lives to strive to be godly like these women of the Bible. And if there are men here who are not married, then we need to recognize the importance of seeking out wives who are like these wonder women of the Bible. Let's take a few moments to look at some examples of truly wonderful, powerful, and godly women who did great things in the eyes of God that ought to cause us to lift their name up as being women that women today ought to truly emulate in their lives. Who are these women? Let's consider a few of them this morning and what made them so wonderful.

#### I. Hannah: Wonder Woman of Prayer

- A. Hannah was the wife of Elkanah, and we can find her story in **I Samuel 1**. She of course is the mother of Samuel, the great prophet of Israel, yet Samuel almost never was if it was not for the dedicated faith and prayers of his mother, Hannah.
- B. For many years, Hannah was barren. What compounded the issue was that Elkanah had another wife who was able to bear him many children. Hannah felt hurt and was so upset that she could not bring forth a child for her husband. Even when they went up to the house to worship God, she was greatly distressed. Even so, she knew that the God of heaven could be her great Comforter so we find her constantly praying to Him. **(v.10)**
- C. She prayed earnestly to God and vowed that if He would only give her a son then she would dedicate him to Him in His service. She "poured out" **(vv.13,15)** her soul before the Lord in these prayers constantly, and because of her trust in God and prayer the Lord blessed her with Samuel and we know the great work that was done through Him. A true wonder woman is a woman who trust in God and will take her deepest heart's desires and lay them at His feet. Hannah was such a woman.

#### II. Abigail: Wonder Woman of Wisdom & Discernment

- A. Abigail's story can be found in **I Samuel 25**. The short version is that she was married to a fool, Nabal. She was the epitome of the situation that is described for us in **I Peter 3**. She was a godly woman **(v.3)** married to an ungodly man, and that man almost cost himself his whole household's life if not for Abigail's wisdom.
- B. Just before his rise to the throne, David sends word to Nabal that he would love to be received by him and his house as he passes through. This might seem a bit presumptuous by David, but David had good reason to request such. He had spend much time prior taking care of Nabal's men and flocks out in the wilderness. He had provided good protection for them and they lacked nothing. Nabal, however the fool that he was, denied David and aroused David's anger.
- C. David then makes plans to go and wipe out Nabal's house. Thankfully, word reaches Abigail's ears of what is about to take place. So she rushes to put together some supplies to go and beg for David to stay his judgment upon her husband and his house. David recognizes the wisdom of this woman and is thoroughly impressed by her discernment that he calls off the attack. The actions of Abigail to undo the foolishness of her husband saved many lives. Then after Nabal's quick death, David takes this woman as his own wife. Wonder women are wise and use good discernment to make the best out of what could be terrible situations.

#### III. Shiphrah & Puah: Wonder Women of Care & Protection for the Innocent

- A. We might not recognize these names right off the top of our heads because we often just refer to these women as the Hebrew midwives who were responsible for saving the Jewish babies from death while in Egypt. **(Exodus 1:8-22)**
- B. Pharaoh had given the decree for the male babies to be killed so that the Jews wouldn't continue to be the strong people that they were, but these women were not willing to go along with this because they knew that killing these innocent babies was against God's will.

- C. Instead of fearing for their lives at the hands of Pharaoh, the women feared God more and did not do as he commanded. **(v.17)** God was pleased with their care and protection for the innocent, and these wonder women were blessed by God and the people continued to grow and be multiplied. Too many women today are more concerned with their own well being, and that leads to others being neglected or hurt. In no instance is this more evident than abortion...the very thing these women were not willing to do. They were not willing to kill babies, yet so many today see a child as an inconvenience. These women were better than that, and God expects for all women to care and protect those around them...especially those who cannot care and protect themselves.

#### IV. Mary, mother of Jesus: Wonder Woman of Obedience & Trust

- A. There are many 'Mary's in the Bible, but none famous than the one who bore our Savior within her own body. Mary, the mother of Jesus is truly a wonder woman for having nurtured and birthed the Son of God, but she is truly wonderful for her obedience and trust in a most difficult of situations. **(Luke 1:26-38)**
- B. She was a virgin, one who had never known a man and therefore it is a literal impossibility for her to be found with child. Therefore, the announcement to her that she was with child must have come as quite a shock. Not only was she pregnant, but Gabriel tells her that this child she would bear would be the Messiah, the King of all kings. What must have been going through her head??
- C. But even as things were, her faith shone through the craziness and we see her strong response in **v.38**, "*Behold, the bonds have loosed; and I will obey the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.*" What faith and trust she showed in this response! A true wonder woman was Mary, and a true wonder woman women today can be by obeying and trusting in the Lord as she did.

#### V. Mary Magdalene: Wonder Woman of Faith & Loyalty

- A. Another Mary that we will consider is one that we first meet in **Luke 8:1-3**. As Jesus is going from city to city and village to village proclaiming the Kingdom of God, He also took time to heal those who were in need. One person that is mentioned that He heals is this demon possessed woman named Mary and she was also called Magdalene.
- B. What made this woman so special was the fact that this isn't the only time she is mentioned. In fact, she plays a integral role throughout the rest of the Gospel story. Even just here in this text we see that she showed great faith in continuing to follow Jesus and even supporting what He was doing through her own funds. **(vv2,3)**
- C. This wonder woman's loyalty was also exemplified through her being with Jesus every step of the way. She was with Him even as he hung on the cross. **(Matthew 27:55-61)** She went to see His body and care for it at the tomb. **(John 20:1,2)** She was blessed to be the first to see the risen Lord **(John 20:16-18)**, and she even told the Apostles about what had taken place. **(Matthew 28:60)** Because of her faith and loyalty in and to Jesus, Mary Magdalene serves as a true wonder woman who ought to be emulated.

#### VI. Tabitha: Wonder Woman of Kindness & Charity

- A. We are introduced to this woman known as Tabitha who was from Joppa in **Acts 9:36-42**. She might be best known for having the Greek name of Dorcas, but she ought to be best known for Luke's description of her being a wonder woman abounding with deeds of kindness and charity to all those around her.
- B. Sadly, when we are introduced to her, it is recorded that he had fallen sick and had died. The love and respect for this woman was shown in the way those closest to her cared for her after her death. Even beyond how her body was treated, the love of her from others was shown in how they implored the Apostles to come to see her. They showed him all of the tunics and other garments she had made for them, and they continued to beg that Peter might do something about it.
- C. Peter, obviously touched by the kindness of this woman and how others thought of her, kneels down beside her body and prays that she might rise again, and through the power of God she does indeed get up. Her kindness and charity to so many around her, her selflessness, and her love drove others to beg that she be brought back. Tabitha's kindness and charity made her a true wonder woman worthy of praise.

#### VII. Lois & Eunice: Wonder Women of Influence

- A. Finally, let's consider the wonder women that were present in the life of the preacher Timothy. In **II Timothy 1:5**, the Apostle Paul commends Timothy for his strong faith, and he insinuates that this strong faith was instilled in him because of his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice. Lois and Eunice must have been known to be strong disciples of Jesus, and it was Paul's belief that their faith's had a strong influence on helping to shape Timothy into the disciple that he was.
- B. These two ladies were wonder women in regards to their godly influence. The way that they lived their lives, their priorities, their focus, their goals...everything about them influenced Timothy to seek the Lord and devote his life to Him. Because of these women we can be sure that many souls were aided and brought to Jesus. What can make any woman anymore wonderful? These women and their influence on Timothy and others ought to serve as a powerful example for godly women to this day and onward.

The world's idea of what makes a wonder woman and what God sees as a wonder woman are often vastly different. None of these women in Scripture wore magical bracelets, wielded powerful lassos, sold movie tickets, gained multitudes of fans, or championed women's rights. Yet, they are praised by God through His inspired writers and that is worth far more than powers, tickets, or fans. Today, as we recognize mothers, let us recognize and praise them for the characteristics that they share with these women. Let us praise all of the women in our lives who are like these, and may we raise our daughters to be like these. May God bless the women in our lives, and we honor them as they strive to serve God and lovingly serve all of those who God has blessed them in their lives.