

Being Women of Worth

Lehman Ave. church of Christ

August 13, 2013

Introduction:

What Do These Items Have in Common? Inventions By Women!

Invention	Name	Year
Signal Flares	Martha Coston	1847
Disposable Diapers	Marion Donovan	1950
White Out	Bette N. Graham	1956
Nystatin	Elizabeth Hazen & Rachel Brown	1957
Electric Food Mixer & Trashcan with foot pedal	Lillian Moller Gilbreth	?
Bra	Mary Phelps Jacob	1913
Chocolate Chip Cookies	Ruth Wakefield	1930
Scotch-guard	Patsy Sherman	1950's
Kevlar	Stephanie Kwolek	1966
Windshield Wipers	Mary Anderson	1905
Barbie Doll	Ruth Handler	1959
Gas Central Heating furnace	Alice Parker	1919
Circular Saw	Tabitha Babbitt	1812
Electric Hot Water Heater	Ida Forbes	1917
Rotary Engine	Margaret Knight	1904
Globes	Ellen Fitz	1875
Engine Muffler	El Dorado Jones	1917
Fire Escape	Anna Connelly	1887
1 st Computer Program	Augusta Ada Byron	1842

Plus so many more....

Bonus Info!

----Did you know these hymns were written by women?

- *I gave My life for thee* (Frances R. Havergal)
- *Take my life, and let it be* (Frances R. Havergal)
- *Safe in the Arms of Jesus* (Fanny Crosby)
- *I Shall Know Him* (Fanny Crosby)
- *Nearer My God, To Thee* (Sarah Adams)

Mothers Day – Created by Mary Towles Sasseen, born in 1860 in Henderson, KY
“Happy Birthday” song by sisters Patty & Mildred Hill, Louisville, KY 1893

Women Are Special

We are going to look at what it means to be a woman and more important a woman of worth. We are WOW.

A Special Creation

Foundation Text: Genesis 1: 26-28; 2:18-25; 3; 4:1-2, 25

“In the beginning,” God created all there is.

What do we read at the end of each day of creation?

We read how everything was good, good, good, good, very good. God's perfect world.

In chapter 2 see something different. The detailed version. We read of His creation of the amazing garden home, then look at verse 18. Something was not good! This was before sin entered, before man and the world was cursed. In God's perfect world, something was missing, something wasn't good!

In His last act of creation of the things in this world, God formed woman from the rib of man. In the greatest detail of any of His creation, we read of Heaven's gift that completed this earth. The completion of man, the fulfillment of mankind, without woman, man could not have continued on, he was not yet whole. Woman was not an afterthought, but an indispensable part of God's plan. He waited until man could see the need and the value of woman!

Women need to understand their true value to the Lord God. What God created woman to be and why she is so important to Him.

1. Created in the image of God himself. Genesis 1:26
2. Created to be man's counterpart, his completion. Genesis 2:18-20
 - A. Not created to be super human or superior to man, but his equal.
 - B. Not created less than the animals, neither as an object or possession, but as his helper with dominion over the creation. Genesis 1:26-27

(God identified Himself as a “Helper” to Israel (Ex. 18:4; Deut. 33:7). The word does not imply inferiority, it describes function rather than worth. There is no value lost in assuming the role of a helper and in doing so woman became man's partner spiritually in the task of obeying God.)

<p>Psalms 10:14 But You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief, To repay <i>it</i> by Your hand. The helpless commits himself to You; You are the helper of the fatherless.</p>	<p>Psalms 30:10 Hear, O Lord, and have mercy on me; Lord, be my helper!”</p>	<p>Psalms 54:4 Behold, God <i>is</i> my helper; The Lord <i>is</i> with those who uphold my life.</p>
<p>Hebrews 13:6 So we may boldly say: “The Lord <i>is</i> my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”</p>	<p>John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.</p>	<p>John 15:26 “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.</p>
<p>John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.</p>		

3. Made from man, she holds an intimate relationship with him because of that creation. Genesis 2:21-24

Woman was created from the rib of man.

She was not made from his head – to top him;
Nor out of his feet to be trampled upon;
But out of his side to be equal to him;
Under his arm to be protected;
And near his heart to be loved.
--Author Unknown

Since woman was created last, Adam could realize there was none other on the earth that was like him. God let Adam see all the other animals of creation before creating the match for him, so that he could see the value in this creation.

Special Laws of Protection

God has always cared for women; as individuals, for their protection, and for their role in His plan for this earth. Deut. 21:10-14 gives a clear example of this.

“¹⁰ “When you go out to war against your enemies, and the LORD your God delivers them into your hand, and you take them captive, ¹¹ and you see among the captives a beautiful woman, and desire her and would take her for your wife, ¹² then you shall bring her home to your house, and she shall shave her head and trim her nails. ¹³ She shall put off the clothes of her captivity, remain in your house, and mourn her father and her mother a full month; after that you may go in to her and be her husband, and she shall be your wife. And it shall be, if you have no delight in her, then you shall set her free, but you certainly shall not sell her for money; you shall not treat her brutally, because you have humbled her.”

God knew the hearts of men and what was going to happen as they went in and took the land promised them. But God did not allow them to have free reign, He set regulations on their behaviors over women. God gave provisions for the captive women to have time to mourn the loss of mother and father and home. He recognized and cared for the feelings of the woman and her needs. He also took care to ensure that if the man decided not to keep her as a wife then he was to set her free. He was not allowed to keep her as captive, sell her for money, or to treat her brutally. God made sure that even in such dire situations that women were treated as humans, not as property.

Let's also look at Ex. 22:22-24 God shows special protection for women, widows in this case, as well as fatherless children. To much so that it says if they cry out I will hear them and My wrath will become hot!

And Numbers 27: God makes special provisions to make sure the women with no husbands and no male heirs (the daughters of Zelophehad) are cared for and do not lose their family land.

Who We Are, Who We Were Created To Be

The world tries to teach women we are something different. That we are objects to be lusted after by men, that we are inferior, that we must be superwoman to be deemed good enough, worthy enough.

We are constantly berated with the images of the women the world expects us to be: able to keep the perfect home, work a full time job, raise perfect kids (well-behaved, straight A students), while being the perfect wife, and looking like a supermodel.

There is a major problem with this kind of thinking: IT CAN'T BE DONE!!!

When we view ourselves through the world ideals how do we often feel? Worthless, failure, incapable, unable

When we can't keep up and when we are using those ideals to hold up our self-worth, it is a domino effect.

Something falls apart and it all starts to unravel. Our self-worth drops, we wonder what is wrong with us why we can't do it all, be it all, when it seems like everyone else does it! WRONG AGAIN!

We should not judge our behind the scenes by the highlight reel of others!

(discussions after last month's class – dishes, laundry, kids, routines) We all have our areas where we struggle. No one is perfect, God knows this already. And guess what, He already loved us, knowing those imperfections. He is not looking for us to impress Him with those things!

Example

“Ugliest Woman In The World”

Recently I am across a video of a motivational speaker, named Lizzy Velasquez. A little background:

*born with rare disease, only 3 people have in the world, can't gain weight, body does not store fat.

* At birth doctors told her parents not to expect anything from her, she would never walk, talk, anything. Her parents didn't let that stop her, they took her home raised her as a normal child. She struggled but she made it through.

*And she is blind in one eye. Battled illnesses. Bullied through school.

*As a teen she came across a video on youtube of her that was titled the 'ugliest woman in the world’

*Youtube video was only 8 sec long, over 4 mil. Views

* Horrible comments (monster, gun to her head, kill it with fire)

Currently in her early 20's, this woman at her heaviest weight has never been above about 64 pounds. Her story could have turned either way. Her life could have had dramatic differences depending on the choices she made through her persecutions.

Yet this young woman made a choice. She began asking herself, “What defines me? Does my looks define me? Do the evil remarks of others define me? Do the hurtful actions of others define who I am?” She refused to let the hurtful words and deeds of others set the course for how she lived her life. She didn't even let her “disabilities or differences” define who she is. She chose rather to let her goals, dreams, her successes, her personality and most importantly her God be the deciding factors in defining her life and her worth. This is what gave her the strength to push on.

It is encouraging and inspiring to know that in her story there is something bigger than that inspired her. Someone powerful that told her, amid everything the world said, that she was special and worthy and beautiful. We have that. We have a God and Father who has said we are worthy!

As Christian women we have the advantage over others in this world. We have a God to aid us, give us strength and guard us. A God who loves us and defines us as worthy, valuable and special. We have the God and Creator of the Universe pulling for us not to fail, but to grow.

Example of Nick Vujicic

He gives praise to God from turning his life from a life without limbs to a life without limits. He recognizes his worth beyond his physical abilities, his life accomplishments, and recognizes his worth in God. (Now unfortunately this man has beliefs about salvation that are not found in Scripture, but hopefully someone will be able to teach him.)

“It's a lie to think you are not good enough. It's a lie to think you're not worth anything.”

He is right though. The world tries to sell us the lie that we are not worthy, while God wants us so bad to know that we truly are worthy because He made us that way.

At VBS this year a phrase we went over and over with the kids was that God Don't Make Junk! You are here, you are the person God created, there never has and never will be anyone in this world like you! You are unique!

Why We Are Worthy

We have a greater worth than that! We have value that no one can take from us. No one can steal, no one can judge us as unworthy of, a worth that isn't swayed or lessened when we stumble and fall. No matter how hard we crash!

We were made wonderfully!! "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well." Psalm 139:14

Isaiah 43:1-7 This section God is speaking specifically about the children of Israel but the main truths apply to us as well. Let's see how!

43 But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob,
And He who formed you, O Israel:
"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called *you* by your name;
You *are* Mine.

2 When you pass through the waters, I *will be* with you;
And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.
When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned,
Nor shall the flame scorch you.

3 For I *am* the Lord your God,
The Holy One of Israel, your Savior;
I gave Egypt for your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in your place.

4 Since you were precious in My sight,
You have been honored,
And I have loved you;
Therefore I will give men for you,
And people for your life.

5 Fear not, for I *am* with you;
I will bring your descendants from the east,
And gather you from the west;

6 I will say to the north, 'Give them up!'
And to the south, 'Do not keep them back!'
Bring My sons from afar,
And My daughters from the ends of the earth—

7 Everyone who is called by My name,
Whom I have created for My glory;
I have formed him, yes, I have made him."

We are His children. We are daughters of the King of Kings, Lord of Lords! Do you know what that makes

you and me? A real life royal Princess! (Galatians 3:26 paraphrased “For you are all “daughters” of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”

We are chosen! *“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”*

2 Peter 2:9

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.” John 15:16

He Chose Us! Even when we don't choose Him, He chooses us! He will never let us go. He wants us with Him. He loves us.

We are His crown jewels!! “For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Is it not even **you*** in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? **20** For you are our glory and joy.” 1 Thess. 2:19-20

How To Be/Act Worthy

We can't be/act worthy if all we are concerned with is what is on the outside, the part the world views. That isn't what God looks at.

* 1 Samuel 16:7 “But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For *the Lord does not see* as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

* 1 Peter 3:3-7 *“Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— **4 rather let** it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. **5** For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, **6** as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.*

***7** Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.”*

And did you catch that last part, a mans prayers will be hindered from God if he doesn't give honor to his wife! Another example of the importance of women to God.

Instead we need to clothe ourselves in humility.

“ Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

***6** Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, **7** casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”* 1 Peter 5:5-7

By the same token we can't judge others by their outward appearance either.

* James 2:1-13 Don't show favoritism because of a person's appearance

* 2 Cor. 5:16a – no longer seeing others as just people but as precious souls. When we realize the worth God has placed on everyone, when we see those in our lives the way God sees them, sees us, as precious, worthy, valuable, then we can look past the physical appearance and the actions (that may not always be easy to take!) and see the needs, feelings, and desires people have to be loved and have purpose.

As daughters of the King, in order to act worthy of that position we need to imitate our Father! Ephesians 5:1 *“Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.”*

Probably one of the hardest and most important things He wants from His children is for us to act like Him!

Sometimes we could be the only vision of Him people come into contact with in their lives. It's easy sometimes to forget that we are true royalty and to get caught up in this world with its hard times and distress, but we can not forget that we are His!

What does this mean. Many times in the New Testament we are told to walk worthy of Christ. What does this mean? Let's look at one of these examples:

Ephesians 4 starting in verse 1.

"I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

Other Examples

Phil. 1:27 *Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,*

Colossians 1:10 *that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

1 Thess. 2:12 *"that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory."*

2 Thess. 1:3-5 Counted worthy because of their suffering and for their love toward one another (vs. 3)

We must set a new goal for ourselves – 2 Cor. 5:9 – *"Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him."*

Not to please self or others but God.

Our goal in life should not be to please self, or to be always pleasing others, but to please the One who gave us life. In verse 14-15 it continues on to say that Christ died for all of us and we should be compelled to live for Him. If that is our goal, then it will set our direction for living as a worthy, godly woman, wife, mother, employee, neighbor, teacher, sister, aunt, friend, etc. We will be striving to do our best for God in all the roles of our life and to bring glory to Him. This kind of life will lead us to better feelings toward our self when we are no longer focused inward but upward!