A WORD IN SEASON SERIES

"EXCERPTS FROM THE WRITINGS AND MINISTRY OF BROTHER SAM GREENE"

Women In Ministry

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The following is taken from the Brother Sam's study manual, Women In Ministry...

In these days when we are about to witness that last great move of the Spirit of God and the coming of the Lord Jesus, we need to have clarified for us in a Scriptural manner the truth about women and their role in church ministry. To do this, we must approach the Word of God with an open (unveiled) face (II Corinthians 3:18). The time for bias and closed-mindedness is over! We must search the Scriptures to see about this principle.

I believe the only conclusion we can come to (Scripturally speaking) is that women are free to minister. The world is waiting to hear the Gospel. Maybe the reason we haven't reached them yet is because half of the body of Christ has been held in bondage! If we are going to experience His fullness, we need everyone that He has called to be fulfilling his or her ministry. "Rise up, ye women that are at ease; (not fulfilling your call) hear my voice, ye careless daughters..." (Isaiah 32:9-20). "The Lord gives the word of power: The

women who bear and publish the news are a great host." (Psalms 68:11- Amplified Version)

To this end, that women might rise up without fear or condemnation, and that they may know they are standing on solid Biblical ground, this book has been written.

That the Gospel might be preached!

Let Her Alone

This lesson is taken from Mark 14. We've so far seen that the bible translators were biased, the Jewish people subjugated their women, women are considered inferior, women were dominated, and were spoken of in the most horrible and unclean ways, even by Rabbis. And yet, in spite of all of this, Jesus comes and everything changes. Wherever Jesus comes, it upsets the apple cart of what has been before it. I am going to say that again. Anytime Jesus walks in a place, anything that has been going on before that is going to be changed. The Israelites were living in the tradition of the elders, not in the Word of God. They elevated the tradition, the Talmud, and considered it as holy as the Word of God. Where that came from is nonsense. It is obviously a manmade tradition.

When Jesus came to the earth, He was different. He talked to a woman sitting at the well, which was not allowed. He let a woman touch Him which was not allowed. Everything He did you will find that there were women around Him constantly. Actually there were more women than men. And so Jesus upset the apple cart of religion. Everything we believe needs to be founded upon the Word of God and not tradition. We need to be like those noble Bereans who searched the Scriptures daily whether those things were so (Acts 17:11). At some point, even Jesus got tired of the attitude of men towards women, especially the religious hierarchy. Let's read this account in Mark 14:

"¹After two days was the feast of the passover, and of unleavened bread: and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take him by craft, and put him to death. ²But they said, Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar of the people. ³And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head. ⁴And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made? ⁵For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her." (Mark 14:1-5)

Religious Pharisees and religious people strain at knats and swallow camels. Why would anybody be indignant over Jesus receiving worship, especially the kind of worship typified here. She gave the most precious thing she had and anointed the Lord Jesus with it all the while having the revelation of what was about to happen. But here in this story, these people are murmuring against this woman.

Before I continue, I want to mention to you that in this story, like all the other situations throughout the New Testament with Jesus interacting with women, Jesus always was against the rules. People around Jesus many times never said anything, but they were probably angry with Him all the time. This wasn't supposed to happen, especially a woman coming into a place where she wasn't welcome and takes the most precious thing to her and gives it to Jesus. It was costly. People always criticize that which they are not willing to do themselves. They murmur against other people to hide the fact that they don't have the same kind of passion or they are in darkness.

So once these men began to murmur against the woman, "fesus said, Let her alone..." I don't believe Jesus said this quietly and in passing. I think Jesus had enough and said directly to the brothers, "Let her alone!" Psalms 68:11 tells us clearly that "The Lord gave the word: and great was the company of women that published it" (Amplified). In these last days, women are going to be used mightily by God, but there is a spirit in men, particularly in leadership, that is similar to Nabal in the Bible, who are fools over the household of God. Solomon says, "I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth" (Ecclesiastes 10:7). There are

too many princes or princesses who should be on top of horses, in places of leadership, who are not because of some denominational creed, some manmade doctrine or thinking (even though they think it is the Bible). Many of these beliefs really came out of a distorted tradition that dates back to the early Roman Catholic church. You and I have the original Hebrew and Greek to find these things out. I don't want my faith resting in the wisdom of men. I don't want my revelation to be that of another man. I want my own, right from the Word of God.

"Let her alone". How many times have you been sitting in a meeting and some man is put there preaching and there is no anointing, and you know there is a sister in the front row, who you get most of your spiritual substance from, who has the Word of the Lord? This is kind of like Elijah did when he stopped by the widow woman's house. He had an apartment there so he can spend time there, get filled up, and go back out and minister. The woman that is more qualified to minister is not allowed to because of tradition and a misinterpretation of the Scriptures. Half the body of Christ has been in bondage. Brothers just can't get the job done. Adam already had turned from the Lord before Eve was created. Eve was created to restore Adam. That is the revelation and the truth that has been hidden by Satan and religion to keep men in positions of authority. Women are far stronger than men. Men are beastial and weak. Men have a hard time hearing this, but that is just because they have insecurities and don't know who they are. I personally have no problem with strong women. Actually, I love them because they are the best workers and they can multi-task more than anything you know. As we joked the other night, women can have a baby on one arm, they can cook the bacon with the other arm, and have the phone in one of their ears counseling somebody. All men can barely do is rock on their recliner and push the remote.

"Let her alone why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me. ⁷For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always." People don't recognize it is an absolutely glorious thing that the manifest presence of God comes to you. Everything else fades into oblivion, feeding the poor, clothing the naked. I will be hungry and naked as long as I am in the manifest presence of God. Moses fasted 80 days in the presence of God and you didn't hear him complaining. It is just

religion. They are all about works and have no revelation of grace. Like Martha they are distracted with cares, even sincere good things like feeding the poor. Which is greater, feeding the poor or giving a costly sacrifice to Jesus? This is Jesus' answer in verse 8, "8She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying. 9Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her." This woman had a revelation of Jesus' death and resurrection while the others did not.

Here are some other translations to verses 6-8: "Let her alone, why are you troubling her...she hath done a good and beautiful praiseworthy and noble thing to me", "Leave her alone, and why criticize her for doing such a good thing to me", "Let her alone, why are you giving her a hard time?...she's just done something wonderfully significant to me." The disciples didn't recognize the wonder and significance of what she was doing. Another reads, "She did what she could, when she could." Maybe she was saving up for years. All we know is that it was expensive and costly what she gave and she did it when she could. Have you ever thought about saving your money and instead of buying yourself something, save up as much as you can so you can give a tremendous offering to the Lord? We don't think that way. We think people like that are fanatics, but I like what one brother said years ago, "A fanatic is someone who loves Jesus more than you". Other translations also include, "Let her be, why are you bothering her? What she could do she did do", "The woman did the only thing she could do for me." Maybe some of us don't have good voices and we don't play instruments and we don't have a lot of money, but we can sure love Jesus and prove it with our daily life. If you or I don't have anything else, we can sure prove our love for Jesus by loving our brothers and sisters. This woman did what she could, when she could. "Let her alone, why berate her for doing a good thing?", "Let her alone, why do you molest her? That which she had, she used." "Why are you annoying her?", "Why do you embarrass her?"

In another account Jesus says, "And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss

my feet." (Luke 7:44-45). Men take it for granted. When you love somebody, you don't take it for granted that they know it. You tell them. You live the life for them. Many people can tell Jesus they love Him, but they don't ever really show it to Him by the way they live their lives.

Let me tell you a little story. Recently, some friends of mine told me that a person they knew went to a very large charismatic meeting with another woman. The first woman was not filled with the Holy Ghost and her friend was. Well, the first person did something during the meeting and the man of God leading the meeting didn't like it very much. She did it innocently with no malice or forethought. What happened was this. The woman friend was up front getting prayed for and she apparently got slain in the Spirit and was laying on the ground. Well, the first woman, because she never saw anything like this before, ran down to the front because she thought her friend had fainted and tried to help her. Well the "man of God" didn't like this and began to berate her in front of everyone and embarrassed her so badly she got up and began to walk out. Even after she was trying to leave, he wouldn't leave her alone, and yelled at her and said bad things to her all the way while she walked out. Where were the other men in the place? Somebody should have spoken up and helped this poor woman and spoken to this "man of God". The way this man of God acted is not the Spirit of God. Have you ever seen Jesus act like this, arrogant, haughty, full of pride, and having a know-it-all attitude? Never!

Women have been embarrassed, ridiculed, put down, but sisters, hear the Word of the Lord. Jesus is stepping into the situation and He is telling all these men, "Leave her alone!" In the last days, God is putting a stop to this. Even during Jesus' first coming 2000 years ago, so much of His ministry loosed women. What do you think is going to happen during Jesus' second coming? It is not going to be easy for men with ambition. They will have to have their ego checked and dealt with when women truly come forth with superior ministries. Men should rejoice when they see the anointing of God upon a woman. If a woman is a better preacher, sit down and be quiet, and let her go. You may just learn something. In the last days, Joel says "your sons and your daughters shall prophesy" (Joel 2:28). God is saying this will surely happen.

Finally, in John 8:10, Jesus is speaking with the woman caught in "When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?" Men condemn, God convicts. We can never deal with sin by screaming and pointing a finger and condemning. God always says He will meet us in mercy. He is after redemption and reconciliation first. Her response to Jesus was, "She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more." What was Jesus saying to these men? Leave her alone! It is time all across the body of Christ that men leave Stop murmuring, stop troubling them, stop women alone. embarrassing them, stop annoying them, stop trying to get them to submit to absolute foolishness, and let them free! You will be surprised. Once you let women free and get them moving into their ministry, tremendous fruit comes. It is amazing that the Son of God had to come and say leave her alone. These people in Mark 14 couldn't recognize the good work this woman was doing for Jesus.

Wherever there is a sister who loves the Lord, loves the Word of God, and whose spirit cries out to be used of God, and she is in a place where she is not allowed to be free and she has been told to be quiet and submit, hear the voice of God. Leave her alone! For every sister that feels a tremendous call upon her life to lead worship, to evangelize, to prophesy, to preach, to teach the Word of God, etc., and you've been hindered and promises were made and never kept, and when you hear the murmuring and the things they say about you, hear the Word of the Lord. Leave her alone! Only Jesus can stop this religious foolishness. Only Jesus can stop the Judiazers. As they were so upset in Luke 13 that a woman had a spirit of infirmity and very mad that Jesus healed her, Jesus responded to them, "And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" (Luke 13:16). I'm saying to you, it is the will of God for women to minister. It is the will of God for you to find your calling and begin to run after it. Study the Scriptures and know this to be true so you can have an answer to every man that asks you of the hope that is in you. They will have nothing to say against you because it will be clear in the Scripture and they will be convicted by their own conscious. As long as you keep your spirit sweet, it will just be you and Jesus alone to do the will of God. The earth is waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God, but I fear that the sons of God don't recognize the daughters of Israel among them. Until they do, we will continue with half the world not coming to Jesus. Hear me, the hour is coming when that great anointing is going to fall and everyone will be loosed into their ministry. Now sisters, if you feel a distinct call from God, and there is a pull in your heart to be used of God but you've been confused, and you didn't know if women were to minister or you've been told that, be established today in the present truth. Never again let religion bind you and insecure men who are afraid of a woman filled with God stop you from ministering. If you've never acknowledged that you are called of God, do it today. Say to Jesus, Lord I've always sensed your call but nobody else has recognized it, help me. Spirit of the living God fall upon these sisters and sweep through and change every heart for the glory of God.

Jesus is Precious!

Brother Sam Greene

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