

PARABLES

Bringing Hidden Things to Light



Psalms 78:2-4

I will open my mouth in a parable, I will utter dark sayings of old... We will not conceal them.

Parables Bookshelf - Series 1.19.3

This edition of the Parables Bookshelf Newsletter continues the book *No Apologies—A Biblical Teaching on Godly Womanhood*.

It is rare today to find a man who is neither seduced nor intimidated by the spirit of Jezebel. Even the prophet Elijah was intimidated by Jezebel.

The Bible does provide us with the history of one man who was not intimidated by Jezebel. This man was Jehu, and Yahweh rewarded him by appointing him as King of Israel, and his sons reigned after him for four generations.

NO APOLOGIES

A Biblical Teaching
on Godly Womanhood



Joseph Herrin

Food for Thought

The fact that I am a woman does not make me a different kind of Christian, But the fact that I am a Christian does make me a different kind of woman.

Elisabeth Elliot

A godly woman fears the Lord. She seeks His will over the approval of anyone else on earth. Her fear of God makes her aware of the future consequence of her choices.—Unknown Author

Scripture Memory

I Peter 3:1-2

In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

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No Apologies

Casting Down Jezebel

Yahweh has given to the body of Christ a pattern to follow when Jezebel seeks to assert herself and to rule in the midst of His people. The solution is to cast her down.



Casting Down Jezebel

Let us look once more at Jehu's response to Jezebel.

II Kings 9:30-33

And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and adorned her head, and looked out at a window. And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, "Had

Zimri peace, who slew his master?" And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, "Who is on my side? Who?" And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs. He said, "Throw her down." So they threw her down, and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall and on the horses, and he trampled her under foot.

One thing that stands out to me in this passage is that Jehu did not speak a single word to Jezebel. Jezebel tried to engage Jehu in conversation. With her words she described Jehu as the one who was in rebellion, acting to usurp authority. She compared Jehu to Zimri. Zimri was a servant of Elah, son of Baasha, an earlier king of Israel. He had command of half of Elah's chariots. Zimri conspired against Elah and slew him, an act which Yahweh gave Zimri no commandment to do. Although Zimri's actions fulfilled a prophecy against Baasha's household, the motive in Zimri's heart was not the same as Jehu's. Zimri sought only to wrest control of the kingdom for himself, while Jehu was anointed by a prophet sent by Elijah, and he was given commandment by the prophet to destroy the house of Ahab and Jezebel. Following are Jehu's words of commissioning.

II Kings 9:6-10

"Thus says Yahweh, the God of Israel, 'I have anointed you king over the people of Yahweh, even over Israel. You shall strike the house of Ahab your master, that I may avenge the blood of My servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of Yahweh, at the hand of Jezebel. For the whole house of Ahab shall perish, and I will cut off from Ahab every male person

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both bond and free in Israel. I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah. The dogs shall eat Jezebel in the territory of Jezreel, and none shall bury her.”

Jehu accepted this commission, and set his heart to fulfill it with zeal. As he was on the way to remove Ahab’s son from the throne, Jehu encountered the godly man Jonadab and said to him, “Come with me and see my zeal for Yahweh” (2 Kings 10:16). Yahweh attested to the fact that Jehu had done well in carrying out His commands.

II Kings 10:30

Yahweh said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in executing what is right in My eyes, and have done to the house of Ahab according to all that was in My heart, your sons of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel."

Jezebel’s words were not right when she compared Jehu to Zimri. It is possible for men to perform outwardly identical acts, yet one man be approved by God and the other man condemned. From outward appearances, Zimri and Jehu did similar works. Of Zimri we read.

I Kings 16:10-13

Then Zimri went in and struck [Elah, son of Baasha] and put him to death in the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and became king in his place. It came about when he became king, as

soon as he sat on his throne, that he killed all the household of Baasha; he did not leave a single male, neither of his relatives nor of his friends. Thus Zimri destroyed all the household of Baasha, according to the word of Yahweh, which He spoke against Baasha through Jehu the prophet, for all the sins of Baasha and the sins of Elah his son, which they sinned and which they made Israel sin, provoking Yahweh God of Israel to anger with their idols.

Zimri slew an idolatrous king, and so did Jehu. Zimri destroyed the entire household of the king, as well as the close friends of the king, and so did Jehu. Outwardly their works were the same. They both slew kings that had defiled the land and people of Yahweh through idolatry. Yahweh had prophesied that both kings and their households would be destroyed, yet Zimri did not perform his acts out of obedience to a command of God, nor was he zealous for Yahweh. Zimri’s actions were selfishly motivated. His actions were those of a covetous and rebellious man who sought to elevate himself.

Zimri ruled only seven days after slaying Elah, son of Baasha. Omri, another army commander raised a force against him.

When Zimri saw he was defeated he entered into the king’s house and set it afire with himself inside.

He perished by his own hand in the fire, a fitting tribute to one who had acted by his own hand to usurp the position of the king.

There was much cunning in Jezebel’s words to Jehu as she called down to him from the tower. She sought to sow doubt not

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only in Jehu's heart, but in the hearts of his followers. Certainly they all knew the history of Zimri, and the results of his treason. It

Jezebel will not be persuaded by any arguments.

seems remarkable to me that Jehu did not refute the words of Jezebel. He offered no defense. Jehu spoke

not a single word to the daughter of Ethbaal. His only command was to cast her down.

There is wisdom in this. Jezebel will not be persuaded by any arguments. Rebellion is thoroughly rooted in her nature. Like the fool of whom King Solomon spoke, there is no profit in arguing with Jezebel, or speaking a word to her.

Proverbs 23:9

Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the wisdom of your words.

Proverbs 26:4

Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you will also be like him.

The Jezebel spirit cannot be reasoned with. It will never repent of its attitudes and actions. We see this truth declared even in the New Testament.

Revelation 2:20-21

“But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. **I**

gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality.”

The Jezebel spirit will not respond to the words of God or man. She remains defiant in her idolatry, immorality, and usurpation to the very end. There is only one effective course of action. Cast her down. Do not waste words. Actions alone will suffice.

You may well ask, “How does this truth apply to the Christian woman today?” Every woman must confront this spirit at some time. The spirit of Jezebel is part of that sinful nature passed onto all the descendants of Adam. What should a woman do when she finds this spirit of rebellion, of idolatry, of selfishness, and usurpation seeking to assert itself in her life? There will be no profit in conversing with this spirit. Her arguments are endless, and full of cunning. The best course of action is to take these thoughts captive, and to cast down every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.

II Corinthians 10:4-6

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...

Sisters in Christ, when this Jezebel spirit makes its voice heard in your heart, cast down her arguments. Abase those high and exalted attitudes that seek to assert themselves. Adopt that humble mind that was observed in Yahshua. Accept the role of the servant. Humble yourself before God and

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man, and in due time Yahweh will exalt you.

The world, and a large portion of the church, have embraced the mind of Jezebel. Women are declared to be equal to men in every way. The thought of the woman being subject to man is offensive, and derided with every imaginable argument. On every hand you will encounter those in the world who seek to take you captive to the attitude and actions of Jezebel. The philosophy of the independent woman has saturated society. Its advocates are everywhere. It is a mere remnant who have not fallen for the deceptive allure of this self-exalting spirit.

Colossians 2:8

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

Jezebel exalted herself. She took to herself a role God had not assigned to the woman. Consequently, Yahweh judged her severely. Her fall was calamitous. Her shame is beyond compare. She ended up as dung upon the face of the earth. Her reputation is one of divine reproach.

In contrast, the Son of God emptied Himself of the glory that was His. He willingly stepped down from His position in the heavens. Yahshua accepted a position of a servant, ever living to do the Father's will. Christ even washed the feet of the men whom He had created.

Philippians 2:5-9

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Yahshua: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also has highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name...

The humble spirit of Christ is exceedingly pleasing to the Father. There are great contrasts to the death of Jezebel and that of Christ. Jezebel was cast down in her death. Christ was lifted up. It was not possible to cast Christ down, for He had adopted the lowest position possible.

We see another contrast after the deaths of Jezebel and Christ. When Jehu gave the command to bury Jezebel, there was nothing left to bury. The dogs had eaten her. Jezebel had lived in sensual ease and luxury during her life. Though Jehu would have shown her some honor in her death, God did not permit it. There was nothing left to bury. By contrast, Christ lived a life of humility and service. Although He was crucified, not a bone of His body was broken and He was buried in a rich man's tomb. "Precious in the sight of Yahweh is the death of His godly ones" (Psalm 116:15). Those who would be honored by God must humble themselves.

*Jezebel was cast
down in her death.
Christ was lifted up.*

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Proverbs 15:33

The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom, and before honor comes humility.

The world and the sinful nature expressed in the passions and desires of the flesh, wage war with the Spirit of Christ. We will be ruled by one or the other. The empty deception and philosophy of this world says that it is right to assert oneself. The mantra of Satan is "Look out for number one." In contrast, Christ told His disciples they must hate their own lives, and die to the desires of their own souls. Yahshua declared, "The greatest in the kingdom of God is the servant of all."

"The greatest in the kingdom of God is the servant of all."

Those who are ruled by the prideful spirit of this fallen world system will be abased in the end. Being a daughter of God will avail the Christian woman nothing if they have manifested the spirit of Jezebel. A notable truth is revealed in the details following Jezebel's death.

II Kings 9:34-35

[Jehu] said, "See now to this cursed woman and bury her, for **she is a king's daughter.**" They went to bury her, but they found nothing more of her than the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands.

Women in the body of Christ are likewise the daughters of a King. Yet, there will be no honor for those who exalt themselves in this life. Yahweh will abase the proud.

Isaiah 2:12

For Yahweh of hosts will have a day of reckoning against everyone who is proud and lofty and against everyone who is lifted up, that he may be abased.

Jezebel had her day of reckoning, and so too will all who follow in her steps. The Spirit and the Word testify that if we will humble ourselves then God will not have to humble us. It is wisdom to seek the low place, rather than to choose honor and position for ourselves. In the Gospels we read a parable through which Christ declared this truth.

Luke 14:8-11

"When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this man,' and then in disgrace you proceed to occupy the last place. But when you are invited, go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will have honor in the sight of all who are at the table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Christ was not delivering a sermon on social etiquette here. His subject was not how to behave at parties. Rather, He was presenting a teaching on the proper attitude to manifest throughout one's life. Take the lowest place. Do not seek to elevate yourself. Live

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humbly at all times.

There is great application of this teaching to the life of the Christian woman. The world would tell you to always seek the highest possible seat. Take honor unto yourself. This is the attitude of Jezebel, the spirit of self-exaltation. In stark contrast Christ speaks the very opposite. Take a lower place than you think you deserve. Be content with abasement and humility. This finds great favor with Yahweh, and in His time He will exalt you. Many years ago, a very godly woman named Hannah spoke the following words.

I Samuel 2:7-8

Yahweh makes poor and rich; He brings low, He also exalts. He raises the poor from the dust, He lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with nobles, and inherit a seat of honor...

Adopting a servile role before man appears as an evil thing to many women, even those who are Christians. The rebellion and pride of this fallen world system has infected all mankind. Those who are truly disciples of Christ, following the pattern of His life, are a mere remnant in the earth.

What God requires of the woman is not unique to her. Everything in the creation is under authority. There is a realm of service, subjection, and obedience, appointed to every created being. The apostle Paul shows us the pattern in his letter to the Christians in Corinth.

I Corinthians 11:3

But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and

the man is the head of woman, and God is the head of Christ.

Not even Christ lived to please Himself. He lived to do the will of the Father. He shows us by His example what perfection looks like, demonstrating by His words and actions what is pleasing to the Father.

John 6:38

"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."

Pay particular attention to the words "***I have come down*** from heaven." Christ descended. He had an exalted position, rightfully attained, and He relinquished it when the Father asked Him to do so. In another Scripture we read, "No man takes My life from Me, but I ***lay it down*** of My own initiative" (John 10:18). We must lay ***down*** our lives before we can take them up again in resurrection life. Humility comes before honor.

It is said of Christ that "He humbled Himself... even to death on a cross." To humble oneself means "to go lower." The word humble shares a similar root with the word humus, which is a word for the soil of the ground. To humble oneself literally means to prostrate oneself upon the ground. This is what Christ did. He laid aside His glory in the heavens and descended to Earth. He took upon the form of a bondservant. He was meek and lowly. So too must all those be who would receive praise and honor from God the Father.

To humble oneself means "to go lower."

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Sisters in Christ, if you find yourself in an exalted place at this hour, you must cast yourself down without delay. Follow in the steps of Christ. Empty yourself, and become one who washes the feet of your husband and of others. This is what the godly women of old have done.

I Samuel 25:40-41

When the servants of David came to Abigail at Carmel, they spoke to her, saying, "David has sent us to you to take you as his wife." She arose and bowed with her face to the ground and said, "Behold, your maidservant is a maid to wash the feet of my lord's servants."

This is also the pattern that Christ's apostles set before the women of the church.

I Timothy 5:9-10

A widow is to be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, having been the wife of one man, having a reputation for good works; and if she has brought up children, if she has shown hospitality to strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has assisted those in distress, and if she has devoted herself to every good work.

When the Jezebel spirit urges you to rise up, don't argue with her. Silence Jezebel by your actions. Cast yourself down. Wash the feet of others. Take the lower position. In doing so you will prove the truth of the adage that states, "Actions speak louder than words." The Jezebel spirit will flee in the presence of

such humble service.



Dissolving the Marriage Partnership

There is great power in words. George Orwell, in his classic book *1984*, gives a chilling depiction of a government manipulating minds by exerting control over words spoken and written. Words give rise to ideas in the minds of men. By advocating that certain words be used and others suppressed, minds can be influenced, or controlled.

Mankind is aware of the power of words. I have been angered on occasion as I have read of the despotic Orwellian practices of the United States court systems. I have read of numerous cases where abortion issues came before the court. Whether the court was sentencing abortion protestors, or ruling on the legality of various abortion procedures, they have sought to influence the outcome by dictating the language that could be used. I have read of judges banning certain words from being spoken in court such as "baby," "unborn child," "infant," and "murder." It has been mandated at times that the baby in the womb be referred to as a "fetus," or "fetal material." By proscribing what words could be used, the judge was able to shape opinion and arrive at a ruling in favor of the abortionists.

The media employs similar tactics by describing abortion advocates as "pro-choice" while labeling defenders of human life as "anti-abortion." Those who defend the lives of the unborn prefer the positive descriptor

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“pro-life.” By disallowing this term, and choosing the negative prefix “anti” to describe pro-life advocates, the media is able to influence thought. The term pro-choice, although it is advocating the careless murder of the unborn, appears positive, while the term anti-abortion evokes a negative image.

I have recently been led to ponder the words “marriage partner.” The word *partner* has become ubiquitous, being employed wherever the marriage union of the man and his wife is spoken of today. Even among Christians, the word partner is used commonly to refer to one’s spouse. This word never appears in Scripture when the relationship between husband and wife is mentioned. I can only surmise that it is the cunning of the great deceiver that has led to this word’s adoption.

Consider what the word *partner* implies. A partner is a person who shares, or is associated, with another in some action or endeavor. Common synonyms for the word partner are “sharer, associate, collaborator.” The word partner is very frequently associated with the realm of business. To be a partner in a firm indicates that a person has achieved a certain status. No longer are they merely an employee. Now they have authority and the perks that go along with it.

Although there are various aspects of the word partner that can be rightfully applied to marriage, it is the overall image that is evoked that is cause for concern. By referring to one’s spouse as their marriage partner there is an implicit assertion of equality of roles, of shared authority, and the combining of the husband’s and wife’s individual goals and dreams into one corporate vision. On the surface this sounds not only reasonable, but highly desirable. God’s ways, however, are not man’s ways.

Let us look at the very beginning of God’s thought for the marriage relationship. In Genesis chapter two we read:

Genesis 2:18

Then Yahweh God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a **helper** suitable for him."

The word God used to describe the woman is “helper.” God saw that the man had a need, and there was no other creature that could meet that need. It was necessary for God to form another being specifically to meet the needs of the man.

Genesis 2:21-23

So Yahweh God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. Yahweh God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. The man said, “This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

By referring to one’s spouse as their marriage partner there is an implicit assertion of equality ...

In the New Testament, Christ’s apostles base much of their instruction to women in the church upon creation order. Man was created first. Woman was formed later out of

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a remnant portion taken from the man's body. Not only was woman created subsequent to man, but she was created "for man."

I Corinthians 11:8-9

For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; **for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake.**

In this passage the apostle Paul is establishing the governmental order that Yahweh put in place between the man and woman. The man is given a position of ruling over the woman, and the woman is to subject herself.

Genesis 3:16

To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth. In pain you will bring forth children; **Yet your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.**"

This testimony of the man being the ruler of the woman is repeated in the New Testament.

Ephesians 5:22-24

Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. **But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.**

I Peter 3:5-6

For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, **being submissive to their own husbands; just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord...**

Sarah did not call Abraham "partner." Sarah called her husband "lord," and she is set forth as an example for godly women to emulate. To hear it suggested that wives should call their husbands lord produces a discordant sound in the contemporary ear. It may be accepted that women long ago called their husband's "lord," but these are modern times. Things have changed. Right? Many women would experience fits of laughter if they were counseled to start calling their husband "lord." "What planet are you from?" might be the response of some. The word of God states that those who belong to Christ are "aliens and strangers" in the earth (I Peter 2:11). It should not be surprising if the counsel of God to women today appears foreign, as if from a completely different culture. The saints in Christ are citizens of a heavenly kingdom that operates upon different principles than the kingdoms of this world.

Philippians 3:20

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Yahshua Christ...

Among the citizens of a world under the dominion of Satan it is common to speak of one's "marriage partner." Sarah stands in stark contrast, for she obeyed her husband Abraham, and called him "lord."

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Genesis 18:12

Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, **my lord** being old also?"

After many years of being married to Abraham, having witnessed his faults as well as his victories, being aware that he was a man who had both weaknesses and strength, Sarah called Abraham "**my lord.**" The word "my" adds a very personal element to the honor Sarah bestowed upon Abraham. Sarah had great knowledge of her husband, but she did not let familiarity breed contempt. To her, Abraham was, and ever would be, "my lord."

Sisters in Christ, referring to your husband as lord, rather than partner is more than a matter of semantics. The attitude of women toward their husbands has been greatly altered so that the standard held up by the apostles seems absurd to the Christian wife today. A bondservant would never describe his master as "my partner." To do so would be highly disrespectful.

One might object that the wife is not the husband's servant. Why then is she instructed to call her husband "lord"? Yahweh has given us the examples of other women who, like Sarah, showed great honor and submission to their husbands.

I Samuel 25:39-41

Then David sent a proposal to Abigail, to take her as his wife. When the servants of David came to Abigail at Carmel, they spoke to her, saying, "David has sent us to you to take you as his wife." ***She arose and bowed with her face to the ground and said, "Behold, your maidservant is a***

maid to wash the feet of my lord's servants."

If Abigail had been a contemporary Christian woman under the influence of that proud and independent feminist spirit prevalent today, she would not have spoken so humbly of herself, nor would she have joyfully embraced the role of a servant. This is where the woman who aspires to godliness must be transformed in her thinking. To see the husband as "lord" instead of as a partner goes against everything society teaches.

The influence of society impresses upon women the thought that marriage is an opportunity for the man and woman to jointly pursue life, liberty and happiness. The goals and desires of the woman are put on the same level as the goals and desires of the man. This sounds fair and reasonable, but it is a departure from the image of the woman as man's helper. The modern conception of marriage presents the woman as co-equal to man. Husband and wife are both pursuing individual goals and desires. The wife expects the husband to help her achieve her desires and goals as much as she helps him. The man is viewed as the woman's helpmate as much as the woman is the man's. Does this not sound reasonable?

The modern conception of marriage presents the woman as co-equal to man.

To suggest that the woman should subjugate her life, her dreams and her desires to that of the man appears preposterous. At times it is hard to perceive the degree to which the world and the church have departed from the will of God. Like the proverbial frog in the pot of boiling water, changes

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in attitudes have been gradual. People have adjusted themselves to the changes. They do not seek escape, even if the changes are killing them. It may be easier to see the degree to which the church has departed from the ideal set forth in Scripture by observing the parallels between the woman's relationship to man, and man's relationship to Christ.

The woman must set aside her will, and her desires, and embrace her husband's will as her own.

The apostle Paul states in I Corinthians 11:3 that Christ is the head of man, and man is the head of woman. These are parallel relationships. Let us therefore look at the man's relationship to Christ. It would be dishonoring for me to describe Christ as my "partner." He is my "Lord."

John 13:13

"You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am."

As a man, I am called to set aside my desires and focus upon the will and desires of Christ. My plans for life must be abandoned. I must hate my own soul in order that I might be a disciple of Christ.

Luke 14:26

"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate... even his own life (psuche - soul), he cannot be My disciple."

Matthew 16:25

"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life

for My sake will find it."

What Christ is expressing in these words is that man must yield up his life, all the dreams and aspirations of his soul, all his personal goals and ambitions, and give his life to a wholehearted pursuit of the will and desires of Christ. This is what Christ did in relation to His Father.

John 5:30

"I can do nothing on My own initiative... I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."

This was Christ's attitude to His dying day. In the Garden of Gethsemane the soul of Christ was crushed as His own will and desires had to be put aside in order to embrace the will of the Father.

Matthew 26:38-39

Then He said to them, "***My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me.***" And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "***My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.***"

As Christ subjugated His will to that of the Father, man must subject his will to Christ. The parallel is observed further in that the woman is to subject herself to the man.

I Corinthians 14:34

The women are to keep silent in the

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churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are **to subject themselves, just as the Law also says.**

To do so, the woman must set aside her will, and her desires, and embrace her husband's will as her own. As a man under the headship of Christ, I am to become so surrendered to Him, having no will of my own, that I can say with Paul, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me." I am to be selfless, wholly focused on fulfilling the desires of another. This attitude is to be carried over to the wife as she relates to her husband.

In my soul, I have many natural desires. Many of these desires appear noble and right. I would like to have a helpmate who honors me and supports me. I would like to have the intimate fellowship of both of my children, my parents, my sisters and brother. I would like to minister among the people of God and be recompensed with that honor that should be accorded to a faithful servant. My soul has also entertained some more overtly selfish desires at times. I have desired houses and land, money to spend, and many of the world's goods. If I were to write the script for my life, it would be quite different from the script God has written. My script would have been self-focused. Christ would be included, but He would be helping me meet my soul's desires as much (or more) than I was seeking His will and desires.

For much of my Christian life I was not yielded to Christ's lordship. I loved Christ. I was in church every time the doors were opened. I taught Sunday School, preached, cleaned the sanctuary, mowed the church lawn, and looked for opportunities to serve the Lord. Yet I had not surrendered myself to go **wherever** Christ would lead me, and to do **whatever** He asked me to do. During

this time I would have described myself as a disciple of Christ, but I was not one in actuality. A disciple must abandon his life to take up that life Christ has chosen for him.

During these early years of my walk with Christ, into my late thirties, I had all the things listed above that my soul desired. I had a wife who "partnered" with me even as I was "partnering" with Christ. I had children at home who loved me. I had fellowship with my extended family. I received honor in the churches that I attended and labored in. I owned several different homes at different times. I had the things this world offered that my soul desired, including a good job, and money to spend on my pleasures.

This all changed in 1999 when Christ spoke to me. Yahshua told me He could take me no further unless I surrendered to go wherever He asked me to go, and to do whatever He asked me to do. This thought terrified me. I knew that if I surrendered fully to Christ as Lord, He could very literally require anything of me. I had enjoyed being Christ's partner, for that was not very costly. As Christ's partner, my life remained intact. I could pursue personal goals while walking with Christ. I was sure I would not find it as pleasant to subject myself fully to Christ as my Lord.

A disciple must abandon his life to take up that life Christ has chosen for him.

A period of wrestling ensued. It was a Gethsemane moment that has been repeated numerous times in the years that followed. Would I die to my will and desires and accept the life Christ chose for me? By the grace of God I did yield. In the twelve years since that time I have been led down an afflicted path I would not have chosen. I have experienced

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firsthand all that Christ spoke when He said:

Luke 14:26-27

“If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”

Luke 14:33

“So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.”

Relationships that were dear to me had to be laid upon the altar. Fellow ministers cast me out from their midst. The honor I

Christ made it known to me that we could not operate as partners.

had formerly known among the body of Christ was turned to reproach. I was led to surrender the world's goods that I had accumulated over many years. For a period of

time I lived as a homeless man. I ended up as a resident at a Rescue Mission, being led of the Spirit to spend more than three years there. I have twice been put in jail as I have followed Christ. Life has not been a bed of roses. My soul's desires have had to be cast aside that I might pursue the will of my Lord.

Christ made it known to me that we could not operate as partners. There could only be one Head in our relationship. I had to embrace the role of a bondservant. Most Christians today are partnering with God. Death to self has not been embraced.

Women today are mirroring with their husbands the same relationship most men have with Christ. They come into the relationship with dreams and desires of their own, and they expect their partner to help them achieve their soul's aspirations. Christ did not approach the Father in this manner, and neither must we act toward our head in this way.

John 6:38

“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

As a man who has been given Christ as head, my confession must be, “I did not become Christ's disciple to do my own will, but the will of Christ.” Similarly, the woman who has man as head must say, “I did not enter into this union to pursue my will, but the will of my husband.”

In the previous chapters I wrote of the Jezebel spirit's tendency toward self-exaltation. Jezebel made herself a partner with her husband, King Ahab. She did not present herself to Ahab as a maidservant to wash the feet of his servants. Jezebel had her own agenda. Hers was a life of self-seeking, and self-advancement. The woman who would find favor with Yahweh must abase herself. She must take the lowest seat. She must be humble, laying aside personal ambition, adopting another's will as her own.

The woman was created “for man.” She is to be his helper. If the woman seeks to save HER LIFE, she will lose it. The woman who loses HER LIFE will find the true and lasting life that Christ came to give.

If you are a Christian woman, it is unlikely that you approached marriage as an

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invitation to surrender your life to another. Yet, this is the will of God for the woman who aspires to godliness. Even as a man entering into relationship to Christ is to surrender his life, taking Christ as Lord in everything, so too must the woman be subject to her husband. Paul wrote, “as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.”

The apostles referenced three distinct things that serve as a foundation for their teaching to women: Creation order - man was created first; Creation purpose - woman was created for man; and divine government - “your desire shall be toward your husband, and he shall rule over you.” Each of these things finds its parallel in man’s relationship to Christ.

Christ precedes man in creation order even as the man precedes the woman. Christ is the firstborn of all creation (Colossians 1:15). He is the “ONLY begotten” Son of the Father.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the **only begotten** from the Father, full of grace and truth.

For many years I did not understand what was meant by Christ being referred to as “the only begotten Son.” It has only been as the Father has opened my eyes to perceive the creation order of all things that I have come to understand this mystery.

The Scriptures testify that Christ came forth directly from the Father. Everything else in creation was fashioned by Christ.

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Colossians 1:16-17

For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

In the original Greek manuscripts of the New Testament, the words “only begotten” appear as “monogenes.” You may recognize “mono” as a prefix meaning “one.” “Genes” (pronounced gen-ace) is the root of the words “generate,” and “genesis.” Christ is declared to be the only direct generation of the Father. Nothing else has come forth from the Father in the way Christ has come forth.

There exists a hierarchy in creation. Yahshua is the firstborn of all creation. He is the direct generation of the Father. All other things came through Christ. Paul says of Christ, “all things were created through Him and for Him.” As man was created through Christ and for Christ, we see the parallel truth in Scripture that woman was created through man, and for man.

Christ is declared to be the only direct generation of the Father.

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- Christ came forth out of the Father.
 - Man came forth through Christ.
 - Woman was taken out of man.
-
- Christ has God as head.
 - Man has Christ as head.
 - Woman has man as head.

The parallels continue. We previously read Christ's declaration that He came to do the Father's will. Similarly, man was created to do Christ's will, and woman was formed to do man's will, being created "for man." The woman is instructed to obey her husband as the man is instructed to obey Christ.

A clear pattern emerges as we look at the testimony of Scriptures. Christ modeled before the creation what is pleasing to the

Observing the patience Christ has demonstrated toward me, I choose to be patient with others

Father. Having the Father as His head, Christ laid down His life that He might do the will of the Father. Christ did not consider equality with God something to be

grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bondservant. Man is to follow this pattern as he humbles himself before Christ, laying down his life to embrace the life of Christ. The pattern is completed as the woman humbles herself, taking man as head, laying aside her life to embrace the life of her husband.

As a man, I have fallen short of the perfection of Christ in many ways. Christ NEVER did anything of His own initiative.

I have done much of my own initiative. Christ did not seek His own will, but I have often sought my own will. Christ ALWAYS did the will of the Father, but I have often chosen my will over the will of Christ. James declared, "For we all stumble in many ways" (James 3:2). John echoed this saying when he wrote, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (I John 1:8).

Observing the patience Christ has demonstrated toward me, I choose to be patient with others. The saying is true, "By the judgment you have judged others, you will be judged, and by the measure you mete to others it will be measured unto you." The saying is also true, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy," and "judgment shall be merciless to the one who has shown no mercy." I would not judge my sisters in Christ for their failings any harsher than I would judge myself for my failings. If we are humble in acknowledging our failings, we will learn to be gentle, patient, and merciful toward others.

At the same time, I must always point to the standard before us which is Christ. He was perfect, and He has commanded us to be perfect (Matthew 5:48). We are to aim for nothing less. We are always to strive toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Yahshua.

The pride of life would lead men and women to grasp for equality. Man wants to partner with Christ, and woman wants to partner with man. Christ, however, shows us what is pleasing to God. Christ humbled Himself. He set aside His soul's desires to do the will of the Father. Christ accepted God as His Head and as His Lord. Man must take Christ as Head and Lord, and

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woman must take man as head and lord. In each instance the soul must be crushed as unto death. All who would follow in Christ's steps must hate their own life.

The purpose of this age is to give the children of God opportunity to have the character of Christ formed in them. If we refuse to humble ourselves we cannot attain to Christ's character. If men insist on being treated as an equal to Christ, or women as equal to men, then conformity to Christ's image will elude them. Christ was content to be a bondservant.

Our actions, and our words, will declare whether we embraced the self-exalting spirit of Jezebel, or the meek and lowly spirit of Christ.

If we refuse to humble ourselves we cannot attain to Christ's character.

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PARABLES PRECEPT— Famous Hymns: Jesus Paid it All

I hear the Savior say,
“Thy strength indeed is small;
Child of weakness, watch and
pray,
Find in Me thine all in all.”

Refrain:

Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.

For nothing good have I
Whereby Thy grace to claim;
I’ll wash my garments white

In the blood of Calv’ry’s Lamb.

Refrain

And now complete in Him,
My robe, His righteousness,
Close sheltered ’neath His side,
I am divinely blest.

Refrain

Lord, now indeed I find
Thy pow’r, and Thine alone,
Can change the *leper’s spots
[*leopard’s]
And melt the heart of stone.

Refrain

When from my dying bed
My ransomed soul shall rise,
“Jesus died my soul to save,”
Shall rend the vaulted skies.

Refrain

And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete,
I’ll lay my trophies down,
All down at Jesus’ feet.

Written by Elvina Hall, 1865