

# Women's Thursday Bible Class- God's Distinctive Calling for Women 2022

## Lesson Five : A nurturing relationship

Read the definition of spiritual mothering - When a woman of faith and spiritual maturity enters into a nurturing relationship with a younger woman in order to encourage and equip her to live for God's glory.

Read Luke account of Mary and Elizabeth's relationship - commentary on Titus 2 . Luke 1: 39-56

Requires work and wisdom to cultivate a nurturing relationship.

What beginning observations can we make from this passage?

She went with haste. She is received with welcome and affirmation from Elizabeth, who speaks (under inspiration) to her, commending her faith and pronouncing a blessing upon her. So by Elizabeth's words and welcome Mary is given assurances that she must've needed. Mary had believed God's Word and Elizabeth had confirmed his Word as well.

How did Elizabeth's reaction and her words affect Mary?

1. Her heart praised God joyfully. The Magnificat- Luke 1:42-54.
1. She was encouraged to remember God and his faithfulness and rest in his sovereign purposes.

We know nothing of Mary's mother... only surmises but one thing we can say -we do need other spiritual mothers speaking into our lives and modeling for us.

It does begin with the establishment of a relationship. God's grace is the connector! They shared the same Savior!

We learn to cultivate it. How? Susan Hunt points us to servanthood.

Eph. 4:2-3

Phil. 2: 3-7

Col. 3:12-14

But classic passage is **John 13:1-5, 12,15**

" The greatest example of servanthood in Scripture is the Lord Jesus Christ. And here we are instructed to follow his example."

So how was the Lord Jesus able to serve: 4 things He knew about Himself, that..

1. His time had come.
2. The outcome was certain.
3. Where He was from
4. Where He was going

Translate that to our knowledge of ourself. **Biblical self image** we will call it.

God is Sovereign. ( sound doctrine!)

1. Acts 17:26 -
2. Rom. 8:28 ultimate good is being conformed to image of Christ
3. Eph. 1:4-5 In God's family , my identity
4. John 14- eternal destiny is sure

This is one aspect that is rooted in the " clear thinking" ( sensible) that the mature woman is to demonstrate and to cultivate in the younger woman.

Regarding serving in 'the church'- mentoring is certainly one way, and a distinctive calling of women to women.

We are vitally connected to Jesus Christ into his Body by grace alone. With the analogy of the body in I Corinthians 12, we see that if all the parts are not working properly, the whole body suffers.

Right now serving others may be one of the most counter cultural things you do. Service to others comes at a cost to ourselves. If we regard everything that we have, all- inclusive....., as gifts from God, and we recognize that we are stewards entrusted with them , we serve with our time, talents, gifts, finances,- really all that we are and have.

Next week: read chapter 5 of Spiritual Mothering if you have it, entitled " Encourage and Equip". Topic is use of the tongue in verbal affirmation.

Read the article from Tabletalk by Pastor Skip Ryan

## Lesson Five Discussion Questions

1. Upon examining Jesus in John 13, how can possessing a clear and healthy biblical self-image be liberating? How could a poor, unbiblical self image hinder us?
2. What are other attitudes that can hinder us generally from being a servant/nurturer? ( Lies like- I'll only be fulfilled if blah blah blah or I'll only be satisfied if la la la... for a starter)
3. Are you a servant/ nurturer? Think and ask yourself if you have relationships with women of different ages. If not, what can you do to instigate them and then begin cultivating them?
4. Susan Hunt says that is better for the younger woman to instigate ( initiate)a relationship with an older woman. Do you agree? What could be *better* about that?
5. What is just one thing you are going to take away from this lesson ?