**Women in CPM – Biblical Overview**

How are women involved in CPM? What things have worked? What are some of the challenges facing women? What are some ideas for me personally to be involved?

1. First, let’s consider some Bible passages about women in the ministry of Jesus:

In pairs, look up these verses and discuss answers to the questions below: Matthew 27:55-61, Luke 8:1-3, Luke 10:38-42, Acts 1:13-14, Acts 12:11-17; 18:1-2, 18-19, 24-28; 1 Cor 16:19; 2 Tim 4:19; Rom 16:3

* Did Jesus permit women to be involved in ministry?
* How were women involved in Jesus’ ministry?
* Who was the first person to see Jesus after He rose from the dead?
* Is it significant that she was a woman?

Then look up the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20. Read aloud in groups then discuss:

* Does the GC apply to everyone, or just men?
* Who, ladies, are you discipling now? How are you discipling them?
* How is your team/ministry group/family trying to specifically reach women?

“I like this summary of Jesus’ view of women by Nancy Groom. (*Married Without Masks,* p. 33-34)

“In a culture accustomed to keeping women in their place, Jesus gave women a new and wonderful place. (They were not educated then). In sharp contrast, Jesus never discouraged women from using their minds; He encouraged them to listen to and learn from Him (like with Mary and Martha). Jesus affirmed women’s individual value and contributions by allowing several well to do Jewish women to follow Him and use their gifts (financial and otherwise) for serving Him. Jesus never devalued women, not even outcast women. Rather He taught that in God’s economy women as well as men are worth His time, His touch, His esteem, and His gifts. ”

Discuss: If this is true, how do you think women should be involved in CPM?

2. All through the Bible we see the influence of Women—whether good or bad.

In Numbers 31, there’s one of those stories in the OT where the Israelites were told to go in a kill all the women and children. But this time there’s an explanation for a reason WHY this must happen.

Read, Numbers 31:16, “They were the one who followed Balaam’s advice and were the means of turning the Israelites away from the Lord in what happened at Peor...”

So the Midianite women (non-believing women) had a ***negative*** influence on the Israelite community.

In Deuteronomy 7:3-4, the Israelites are commanded specifically not to intermarry with the other nations around them, “for they will turn your sons away from following me to serve other gods.” Another ***example of negative influence of ungodly women.***

**But there are *good* examples of women’s influence in the Bible too…**

1. We’ve already looked at Priscilla. She ended up being the most notable (= influential) in the pair.
2. What examples of positive influence from women in the OT can you think of?
3. Esther – wow, what an impact!
4. Deborah – a Judge (almost like a King before Israel had kings)
5. Miriam (sister of Moses) – Ex 2:7-9; Ex 15:20-21; Micah 6:4
6. Hannah
7. Tamar, Rahab, Bathsheba – all women of ill-repute appear in Jesus’ genealogy!
8. Can you think of any examples of female PoPs? [Look at these passages as a large group.]
9. Acts 16:11-15 – what was her oikos? Only her family?
10. John 4:4-42 – many people say that “PoPs” either have a strong good or bad reputation. Though this woman may have had a bad rap, she used the influence she had for good—and what a powerful impact she had!

Conclusion: In the Bible there are many women of influence. Don’t count yourself out because you’re a woman, wife or single female! You may have more influence than you think you have!

***We all have influence*** – the Question is ***how*** are we using it?!?

If you’re not doing anything, you are in fact communicating a message about what you value.