

Monday 2nd March

The Biblical view of women

Today we will look at the Biblical view of women as described in Proverbs 31.

“Who can find a virtuous and capable wife? She is more precious than rubies. Her husband can trust her and she will greatly enrich his life.....

She extends a helping hand to the poor and opens her arms to the needy.

She has no fear of winter for her household, for everyone has warm clothes.

She makes her own bedspreads. She dresses in fine linen and purple gowns.

Her husband is well known at the city gates, where he sits with the other civic leaders.

She makes belted linen garments and sashes to sell to the merchants.

She is clothed with strength and dignity and she laughs without fear of the future.

When she speaks, her words are wise and she gives instructions with kindness.

She carefully watches everything in her household and suffers nothing from laziness.

Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her:

There are many virtuous and capable women in the world, but you surpass them all.

Charm is deceptive and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised.”

Prov 31:11-12, 20-30

A Godly woman is valued and respected by her husband and children. She works hard and is successful, providing for her family and helping the poor and needy. She is respected in the community and speaks with wisdom and kindness. She fears the Lord, knowing this leads to intimacy with God.

- Pray for Muslim men to see Muslim women as precious and to be cherished. This pleases God and blesses them, their whole family and their community.
- Proverbs tell us that “her husband praises her.” Let’s ask that Muslim husbands see their wives as worthy of praise and honour.
- Pray that Muslim women who live in fear, will come to know that God is the only one to be feared. The believer's fear is reverence of God and leads to freedom and life.

Tuesday 3rd March

What Islam teaches about women

The Quran and Islamic traditions are both positive and negative toward women. Muhammad’s first wife, Khadija, was a wealthy businesswoman in sixth century Arabia. She was known to have used her vast material resources to help family members who were in need, as well as those less fortunate than herself. Muhammad’s second wife, Aisha, whom he married when she was nine years old, later led an army.

In many Muslim cultures, women are required to wear various coverings when in the presence of men they are not related to, ranging from a loose headscarf to a complete covering of their face and body. Sometimes women are considered equal in the Quran (9:72, 16:97, 33:35). But in 2:228, men have authority over women, and in 2:282 the testimony of a woman is worth half that of a man. In 4:34, an admittedly controversial verse, a husband is encouraged to beat a disobedient wife.

Muhammad once noted that the majority of people in hell are women, since they were ungrateful to their husbands and “deficient in intelligence and religion” (al Bukhari 1:6:301).

While some Muslims affirm that Islamic law (sharia) protects a woman by guaranteeing provision for her as in the case of a delinquent husband, others claim that it denies them basic human rights. Death by stoning for adultery still happens today to women in some parts of the Muslim world.

Watch a Prayercast video about women in the Muslim world: <https://prayercast.com/women.html>

- Pray for deliverance, comfort and healing for abused, neglected and oppressed Muslim women.
- Pray for Muslim women to know and experience the intimate and personal love of Jesus.
- Pray for Jesus' unconditional love to be the foundation of their identity and value.

Source: <https://prayercast.com/women.html>

Wednesday 4th March

Women of the Muslim World

“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?” Romans 10:14

On Sunday, International Women's Day, we will pause to recognise the contributions women make



towards social, economic and political achievement in their families, communities and nations, as well as globally. Research shows that where women’s contributions are affirmed and promoted, economies are strengthened. Moreover, supporting the role of women through girls’ education is one of the significant keys to healthy families and poverty reduction.

Across the Muslim world, there are about 800 million women. Many serve as primary care providers for their families. They are hardworking breadwinners, creative artists and business owners. That

said, their social roles, freedoms and opportunities vary greatly from one Muslim context to another. Some women might not be very visible in the Muslim world, but they can be influential.

One thing Muslim women have in common, from the rural villages of the African Sahel, to the sprawling urban centres of Asia, to the oil-rich nations of the Arab Gulf, is a profound need for the Saviour, Christ Jesus.

Among foreign workers in the field are hundreds of women, both single and married. They dedicate hours every day to engage with the women in their host countries. This deep investment in the lives of Muslim women, in their homes, at weddings and celebrations and in the workplace, results in great opportunities for workers to introduce them to life in Christ Jesus.

- Today let us thank God for all the Christian women who work to reach out to Muslim women everywhere.
- Pray that God would raise up even more Christian women to cross social and cultural boundaries to share the life-saving message of God's love through Jesus Christ.
- May you be greatly encouraged in all you do to reach Muslim women where you live and work.

Thursday 5th March

The One I Want to Follow

Today we read a story from the field of a Frontiers woman who invests in the lives of her Muslim neighbours to introduce them to Jesus.

“Dozens of Muslim women surrounded me on a crowded mat under a thatched shelter as we gathered to celebrate the birth of a neighbour's baby. Yet my heart broke as I looked around at



these women who cared for me when I was ill, taught me where to find the best vegetables in the market and welcomed me into their lives. They live in near-constant fear of evil and their daily routines revolve around rituals meant to keep darkness, disease and death away. They have yet to understand the Good News that Jesus has overcome the world.

But that's beginning to change. Before becoming my language teacher, Sumaiya had never seen a Bible. I started using

an Arabic Bible in our lessons and described Jesus' work of redemption and the promise of peace in His presence. We often found ourselves deep in conversation and immersed in the Word until well after the end of our lessons.

In spite of her efforts to follow the teachings of Islam and the example of Muhammad, Sumaiya had never felt right before God. Together we read Romans 5 describing righteousness as a free gift given to us through Jesus Christ.

“For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.”

At our next lesson a couple of days later, Sumaiya declared that she was ready to embrace Christ’s love and grace. We prayed together and Sumaiya welcomed Jesus as her Lord and Saviour. Since then, she’s immersed herself in the Word and is growing in the knowledge of the truth. It’s filling her heart with joy and she’s often excited to tell others about Jesus.”

- Praise God for Sumaiya’s faith in Jesus Christ and her growing love for His Word. Ask the Lord to make Sumaiya a bold witness and to use her to introduce others to the Saviour.
- Pray for more women in Muslim communities to have the chance to read and respond to God’s Word.
- Ask the Lord of the Harvest to send new teams to share the gospel in the least-reached parts of the Muslim world.
- Let’s ask God to bless all workers who long to see Muslim women set free as they come to understand the Good News.

Source: <https://frontiersusa.org/blog/the-one-i-want-to-follow/>

Friday 6th March

The official colour of International Women's Day is purple. It was chosen because it symbolises dignity and justice.

Purple is also a biblical colour, representing royalty, wealth and authority. It was a very expensive colour to make and own. As we saw on Monday in Proverbs 31:22, the virtuous woman dressed in purple gowns was a wealthy business woman. In Acts 16:14 we read, “A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.” Lydia was also a wealthy woman and was Paul’s first European convert.

In the Book of Esther 8:15 we read, “Then Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal robes of blue and white, with a great golden crown and a robe of fine linen and purple.” Esther was Mordecai’s orphaned cousin whom he brought up as his daughter. She became the wife of the King. Mordecai petitioned her to speak to the King, in order to save their people, the Jews, from being put to death. She did this at a risk to her own life. She was an outstanding example of serving others even under the most stressful circumstances. Jesus Christ said, “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends” (John 15:13).

The Muslim world is in great need of more people who are prepared to go where God sends them, whatever the cost, with the message of hope and eternal life. Perhaps God is calling you or someone you know, to go and be one of his workers in the harvest field?

- Let's continue to pray this week that God will send more workers to reach those who have never heard the gospel.
- Pray that God will open the hearts of many Muslims, especially women, so that they are able to respond when they "hear the things spoken to them."
- Pray that Muslim women everywhere will be treated with dignity and justice.

Saturday 7th March

Lilias Trotter, a missionary to the Muslim world

Lilias Trotter was born in 1853 in London into a wealthy Victorian family. The loss of her father when she was just 8 years old affected her deeply and as she grew up she turned her heart towards God and those less fortunate than herself. At the same time, her artistic talent grew and she had to make a choice; to follow God or her career. She chose to follow God and her heart turned to foreign missions, particularly ministry to Muslims. On March 9, 1888, almost 132 years ago to this day, Lilias Trotter and two female friends arrived in Algeria, not knowing anyone there or the language.

As well as the challenge of learning Arabic, Lilias faced many other obstacles including how to minister to Muslim women who remained isolated and inaccessible; how to reach women living in cities separated from one another and the coast by days of travel and miles of sand; how to live in an inhospitable environment with her frail health owing to a heart condition.

Lilias and those with her made a conscious effort to live among Muslims and to identify with them. She was able to incorporate her artistic talents in her ministry using art to explain the gospel. God blessed her work and she captured the hearts of the Algerian people through her lifestyle of love and encouragement. She was a woman of great faith, hope and love. She prayed and persevered, constantly looking to who God was and what He would do during her 40 years of ministry. You can read her inspiring story in a book entitled "A Passion for the Impossible: The life of Lilias Trotter" by Miriam Huffman Rockness.

Her life of faith and devotion also inspired the hymn "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus." You can listen to it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czxd5oa-gi0>

- It is encouraging to be reminded that the gospel seed was and continues to be sown. Let's thank God for this. He was and is and is to come and is continually at work.
- Pray that, like Lilias, we would turn our eyes upon Jesus and see our own need to love the lost and to serve God without compromise to where He calls us.
- Pray that we would be a people of prayer who seek to bring the Good News to the Muslim community where we live.