

I AM MAN

REFLECTING GOD'S CHARACTER
IN A WORLD OF CHAOS

Week Six: "I Am A Man ... Of Respect For Women"

"Who a man is in his relationships with women, or in the company of women, reveals a lot about who he truly is."

I. A Warped Worldview

The Greeks

"We keep prostitutes for pleasure, we keep mistresses for the day-to-day needs of the body." – Demosthenes (Greek orator and statesman – 384-322 BC)

"The male is by nature superior, the female inferior; and the one rules, the other is ruled." – Aristotle (Greek philosopher – 384-322 BC)

The Romans

- Women didn't play a significant role in religion or politics
- They had little to say about what went on in their homes
- They were viewed as outsiders, like slaves
- They were considered "intimate strangers"

The Jews

"The woman, says the Law, is in all things inferior to men." – Josephus

- The rabbis placed them in the following formula: "women, _____, and _____"
- They were not allowed to study the _____
- Jewish men disdained women as _____
- Even _____ with a woman was considered wrong
- Women were considered _____
- They were defined by their _____ function

II. How A Real Man Views Women

But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. – Galatians 4:4-5 (NLT)

- He turns everything upside down

*In Christ's family there can be no division into Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, **male and female**. Among us you are all equal. That is, we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ.* – Galatians 3:28 (The Message)

A. Not your typical man – John 4:1-26

- In this story, Jesus breaks all known social and religious _____
- Jesus has a “chance” encounter with a Samaritan woman

Problem: She is a woman
She is a Samaritan
She is a sinner

B. A different perspective

1. Jesus saw her from a _____ perspective
 - He engaged in a spiritual conversation
 - He saw her as a child of God
 - Instead of seeing her as a solution to His needs, He longed to meet her needs
 - He was committed to her spiritual well-being
2. Jesus saw her as having _____
 - She was worth His offer of eternal life
 - He didn't de-value her based on who she was or what she had done
 - He offered her the most valuable thing He had: Eternal Life
 - He listened to her
 - He didn't condemn her
 - He cared for her
3. Jesus saw her as a _____ maker
 - He knew she would bear fruit
 - She told her entire village (especially the men – Vs 28)
 - Many came to believe because of her story – Vs 39
 - She had a vision for the lost that the disciples didn't have

Jesus' purpose was...

- ... her well being
- ... her goodness
- ... her fruitfulness

- A man treats a woman with respect
- He cares
- He offers her dignity and gentleness
- He gives when the world says, “Take”
- He nurtures, encourages, honors, and leads

Prayer

Take a few minutes around your table to pray for the women in your life. Include your wives or girl friends, but also your daughters, mothers, friends, co-workers, and neighbors. Ask God to give you the heart for women that Jesus had.

ANSWER KEY: slaves, minors, inferiors, conversation, unclean, biological, spiritual, value, difference

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Week Eight: "I Am A Man ... Of The Spirit"

"And Jesus, being full of the Holy Spirit, returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness." – Luke 4:1

Did you notice what that verse said? "Being full of the Holy Spirit." Have you ever noticed that phrase before? Have you ever thought about the fact that Jesus was filled by the Holy Spirit? I don't know about you, but that concept was a foreign one to me. I mean, why does the Son of God need to be filled by the Holy Spirit. Why would one member of the Trinity need another member of the Trinity to fill Him? But that is exactly what Luke records in his Gospel account. So what's the significance of this statement? That is what we hope to find out in our study this week. You see, if Jesus, as the ultimate man, needed the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, it would seem logical that we do too. But how often do we ignore the Holy Spirit's presence and act as if He isn't even there. Jesus was *led* by the Spirit. Jesus was *ministered to* by the Holy Spirit. Jesus was *comforted* by the Holy Spirit. And as men living in the world today, how much more so do we need his leading, ministering, and comfort?

- Read Luke 3:21-22. This is the account of Jesus' baptism. What does Luke say happened on this occasion?

Go back and read Luke 4:1 again, along with verses 2-13. According to these verses, what did the Holy Spirit do after it descended on Jesus?

Where did the Holy Spirit lead Jesus and what happened when He got there?

Do you see anything strange about the Holy Spirit having led Jesus straight to this encounter with the enemy? Explain your answer.

- Read Matthew 12:28. What does Jesus seem to be inferring was the source of His power?

What did the Holy Spirit do to do?

- Read Luke 4:14-20. In what condition did Jesus return from His time of temptation in the wilderness?

When Jesus began teaching in the synagogue in verse 15, what was the source of His power?

What did the Holy Spirit fill and empower Jesus to do according to verse 18?

- Read Matthew 12:15-21. In verse 18, what does God prophesy through Isaiah regarding Jesus?

Why do you think it was necessary for Jesus to have the filling of the Holy Spirit?

Was it Jesus divinity or humanity that required the Holy Spirit's indwelling? Explain your answer.

- Read Romans 8:13. What does this verse give as evidence of being a son of God?

Do you feel like your life is being led by the Holy Spirit the same way Jesus' was? If not, why do you think that is?

Read Ephesians 5:18. Write down the characteristics of someone who is *filled* with alcohol?

So according to Paul's analogy, what would be the characteristics of someone who is *filled* with the Holy Spirit?

How would being "under the influence" of the Holy Spirit as a man change the way you live your life? What would be some of the characteristics you might share with Jesus?

