

Women Who Lead, Serve, and Thrive in God's Kingdom

*"Sisters Who Serve: Leading with Excellence
and Grace"*



By Dr. Angulus & Sharon Wilson

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Preamble:

Women Who Lead, Serve, and Thrive in God's Kingdom

From the pages of Scripture to the pews and pulpits of today, women have been called, commissioned, and compelled to lead in the wisdom and power of God. This book is a celebration of the queens who walk in wisdom, the sisters who serve with excellence, and the boss women of the Bible who defied the odds to fulfill their divine assignments.

These stories are more than historical records; they are timeless testimonies of faith, courage, and perseverance. From Abigail's street-smart discernment to Esther's bold intercession, from Mary's surrendered service to Hagar's wilderness survival, each woman's journey reveals the heart of God for those who lead and serve in His Kingdom. Whether moving too soon like two eager sisters, wrestling with leftovers like the persistent Syrophenician woman, or leaving a legacy like Moses' mother, these biblical narratives offer us lessons that still resonate today.

To every woman navigating the complexities of leadership, ministry, and faith—this book is for you. May it be a guide, an encouragement, and a clarion call to embrace your divine assignment with wisdom, boldness, and grace. God is still calling women to lead, serve, and thrive, and His Kingdom is richer because of it.

Let's walk in it!

Dedication

To the young sisters in the church, You are daughters of the Most High, chosen, cherished, and called for a divine purpose. This book is dedicated to you—the future queens, servant leaders, and women of faith who will rise with wisdom, boldness, and grace to impact the world for God’s glory.

May you walk in the footsteps of the mighty women of the Bible who led with courage, served with excellence, and trusted God through every trial. May you learn to wait on His timing, seek His wisdom, and move in His power. And when the road gets rough, may you remember that you are never alone—God sees you, loves you, and has already written a beautiful story for your life.

Keep pressing, keep praying, and keep believing. The world needs the light you carry.

With love and encouragement,

The Wilson’s

Why this Book?

In every generation, God raises up women **who lead, serve, and thrive in His Kingdom**. The Bible is filled with examples of strong, faithful women—Deborah, Esther, Priscilla, and Lydia—who boldly answered the call to leadership and service. Today, women continue to stand at the forefront of ministry, business, and community impact, demonstrating excellence and grace in all they do.

Sisters Who Serve: Leading with Excellence and Grace is written to empower, encourage, and equip women to embrace their God-given calling with confidence. This book provides biblical wisdom, practical leadership insights, and inspiring testimonies from women who have navigated the challenges and triumphs of leadership. Whether in the church, the workplace, or the home, women are called to serve with strength, wisdom, and unwavering faith.

The Wilson's offers this book as a resource for women who desire to lead well, serve faithfully, and thrive spiritually. It is a call to step forward in courage, stand firm in faith, and walk boldly in the purpose God has designed for His daughters.

CHAPTER ONE

When Sisters Move Too Soon: Learning to Wait on God

Genesis 30:14-24

When Wanting Becomes a Problem

Have you ever wanted something so bad that you were willing to do anything to get it? Maybe you prayed for it, tried to work things out on your own, or even made some questionable choices to make it happen. If so, then you understand exactly where Rachel and Leah found themselves in this story. These two sisters let their desires get the best of them, and in the process, they manipulated, bargained, and even used the people around them to get what they wanted. Sound familiar?

This story is a reminder that when we try to move ahead of God, things can get messy. But it also shows us that God is faithful, even when we aren't. Let's take a closer look at what happens when sisters move too soon and what we can learn from their mistakes.

1. A Sister's Appetite: When Desire Controls You

(Genesis 30:14)

Reuben, Leah's son, finds some mandrakes—a plant believed to help with fertility—and brings them to his mother. Rachel sees them and immediately begs Leah for some. Why? Because she desperately wants a child and believes these little plants might be the answer to her problem.

Rachel's appetite for a child is so strong that she is willing to bargain with Leah, offering her a night with Jacob in exchange for the

mandrakes. Instead of waiting on God, she's trying to take matters into her own hands. How often do we do the same thing? When we don't trust God's timing, we reach for quick fixes, hoping they'll satisfy us. But they never do.

Lesson: God—not a person, a thing, or a shortcut—is the source of all blessings. When we chase after something more than we chase after Him, we're bound to be disappointed.

2. A Sister's Attitude: When Jealousy Takes Over

(Genesis 30:15)

Leah doesn't just hand over the mandrakes. She snaps back at Rachel, reminding her that she already took her husband. Now she wants her son's mandrakes too? Leah is still holding onto past wounds and using this opportunity to strike back.

Rachel, on the other hand, is so focused on getting what she wants that she's willing to trade her husband's affection for it. She treats Jacob like a pawn, controlling him instead of trusting God to move in her situation.

This is what happens when our attitudes are ruled by jealousy, insecurity, or competition. We become manipulative, bitter, and blind to what we already have. Leah had children but wanted Jacob's love. Rachel had Jacob's love but wanted children. Neither was content.

Lesson: Jealousy blinds us to the blessings we already have. Instead of comparing ourselves to others, we should trust that God has a unique plan for each of us.

3. A Sister's Affection: When We Misplace Our Trust

(Genesis 30:16-21)

Leah “buys” a night with Jacob using the mandrakes. That night, she conceives again. She gives birth to two more sons and a daughter. She sees this as a reward from God, but the truth is, she never needed to trade anything for a blessing. God was already looking out for her.

Too often, we act like Leah. We think we have to “earn” God’s blessings by making deals, working harder, or even trying to manipulate situations. But God’s goodness isn’t something we have to hustle for—it’s something He freely gives.

Lesson: God’s blessings don’t come through manipulation. He already has a plan, and we just need to trust Him.

4. A Sister's Adoration: When We Finally See God Move

(Genesis 30:22-24)

After all the scheming, all the bargaining, and all the heartbreak, God finally moves in Rachel’s life. He remembers her, hears her prayers, and gives her a son—Joseph. And for the first time, Rachel acknowledges God’s work in her life, saying, “God has removed my disgrace.”

Rachel could have saved herself so much pain if she had trusted God from the beginning. But even though she got ahead of Him, He still showed her grace. That’s the beauty of our God—He doesn’t hold our

mistakes against us. He is patient, loving, and always working behind the scenes for our good.

Lesson: God never forgets us. His timing may not match ours, but His plan is always perfect.

Five Best Praxis Ideas for Learning to Wait on God

1. **Pray First, Act Second** – Before making any major decision, take time to pray and seek God’s direction. Don’t let your emotions rush you into something outside of His will.
2. **Avoid Comparison Traps** – Your blessings won’t look like someone else’s. Stay focused on what God is doing in your life instead of competing with others.
3. **Recognize When You’re Manipulating** – Be honest with yourself. Are you trying to “help” God by controlling people or circumstances? If so, step back and trust Him.
4. **Be Content in Every Season** – Instead of fixating on what you don’t have, practice gratitude for what you do have. Contentment keeps your heart aligned with God.
5. **Remember That God’s Timing Is Perfect** – Delays are not denials. If you’re waiting on something, know that God is still working, even when you don’t see it.

Final Thoughts

Leah and Rachel’s story is a powerful reminder that when we move ahead of God, we create unnecessary drama, pain, and frustration. But

even in our impatience, God remains faithful. He sees us, hears us, and has a plan that is always better than anything we could come up with on our own.

So, if you're in a season of waiting, take heart. God hasn't forgotten you. Trust Him, be patient, and rest in the knowledge that what He has for you is already on its way.

CHAPTER TWO

Street-Smart & Spirit-Led: The Wisdom of Abigail" (*The Wisdom of Abigail*)

1.SAMUEL 25

Leadership in challenging times requires more than just strength—it demands wisdom, courage, and the ability to act decisively when the moment calls for it. And if there’s anyone who embodied this kind of leadership, it was Lady Abigail. Let me tell you her story, because trust me, she was as street-smart as she was Spirit-led.

David and his men were out in the wilderness, running for their lives from King Saul. Life on the run wasn’t easy, but one thing about David—he was a man of integrity. While they camped near the land of a wealthy man named Nabal, David’s men made sure no harm came to Nabal’s flocks. They didn’t steal, they didn’t plunder—they protected. Now, Nabal was rich, but he was also a fool, and his name even meant “fool.” That should tell you something. He had everything, but what he lacked was sense.

One day, David sent some men to Nabal with a simple request: “We looked out for you; could you look out for us? A little food and provision would go a long way.” But instead of responding with gratitude, Nabal insulted them. “Who is David? Who is this son of Jesse? Why should I give my hard-earned food to a bunch of nobodies?”

That was the wrong answer.

When word got back to David, his warrior instincts kicked in. He strapped on his sword and told his men, “Let’s ride.” Four hundred men mounted up, ready to wipe out every male in Nabal’s house. It was about to be a massacre.

But here’s where true leadership steps in. A servant who overheard the exchange ran to Lady Abigail. He knew she was the only one with enough sense to defuse this crisis. “My lady,” he said, “David sent men to ask for help, and our master insulted them. But David’s men have been nothing but good to us. Now, trouble is coming, and only you can stop it.”

Abigail didn’t waste time. Leadership in crisis means moving fast, thinking clear, and acting wisely. She gathered bread, wine, roasted grain, raisins, and figs—everything needed to turn away wrath—and set out to meet David before he could reach their home. And when she saw him, she didn’t approach with arrogance or fear; she bowed low and spoke with wisdom.

“My lord,” she said, “let me speak. Don’t let this fool steal your peace. Don’t let anger push you to do something you’ll regret. The Lord has kept you from unnecessary bloodshed today, and when He makes you king, you won’t have this guilt weighing on your heart. Take this gift, and know that God is with you.”

David stopped in his tracks. Her words, her presence, her wisdom—it all hit him. He knew she was right. “Blessed be the Lord who sent you

to meet me today,” he said. “Blessed is your advice, and blessed are you. You kept me from making a mistake.” And with that, he turned his men around. Crisis averted.

Now, back at home, Nabal was drunk, partying like he was a king. Abigail knew better than to waste her breath talking to a fool in that state. She waited until morning, then told him everything that had happened. The shock of it all hit him so hard that his heart failed him. Ten days later, the Lord took him out.

When David heard that Nabal was gone, he didn’t waste time. He knew a woman like Abigail was rare. He sent for her, and she became his wife. Abigail had not only saved her household—she had secured her future.

What do we learn from Abigail? Leadership in tough times isn’t about flexing power—it’s about using wisdom, discernment, and knowing when to step up. She didn’t wait for permission to lead; she saw a crisis and moved. She was bold but humble, strong but wise. And because of her, disaster was avoided, and God’s will prevailed. That, my friends, is leadership in action.

Abigail, the wise and courageous woman from 1 Samuel 25, exemplifies leadership through discernment, diplomacy, and devotion. Here are **five best praxis ideas for women in leadership to think like Abigail**:

1. Lead with Wisdom and Discernment

16. Abigail assessed the danger of Nabal’s foolishness and acted swiftly to prevent disaster.

17. **Best Praxis:** Women in leadership should develop the ability to anticipate challenges, read the environment, and make strategic decisions that prevent harm and promote peace.

2. Master the Art of Diplomacy and Influence

- Abigail approached David with humility, intelligence, and persuasive speech, turning his wrath into favor.
- **Best Praxis:** Women leaders should cultivate emotional intelligence, knowing when to speak, how to mediate conflicts, and how to influence decision-making for the greater good.

3. Exercise Boldness in Crisis

- Abigail did not wait for permission; she took initiative to save her household.
- **Best Praxis:** Women in leadership should be courageous in taking decisive action when the moment calls for it, even if it means going against the norm or challenging authority for the sake of righteousness.

4. Balance Strength with Grace

- Abigail was both strong and graceful, standing firm in her convictions while maintaining respect for those in power.
- **Best Praxis:** Women leaders should embody a leadership style that blends assertiveness with kindness, ensuring they are both respected and approachable.

5. Trust God for Vindication and Provision

- Abigail's wisdom led to divine vindication—God dealt with Nabal, and she was elevated to a higher position.
- **Best Praxis:** Women in leadership should trust that faithfulness, integrity, and wise decision-making will lead to divine promotion, rather than seeking power through manipulation or compromise.

By thinking like Abigail, women leaders can navigate difficult situations with wisdom, courage, and faith, making a lasting impact in their spheres of influence.

CHAPTER THREE

Called to Serve: Mary's Ministry Moment

Luke 1:26-38

My sisters, there comes a moment in life when God interrupts everything to call you into His divine purpose. It is in those moments that fear tries to creep in, but faith must rise up. I know the weight of that call because I have been there. And so was Mary. She was a young woman, minding her own business, preparing for marriage, when God sent an angel to deliver a life-altering message. He had chosen her for an assignment that would shake the world. And today, my sisters, He is calling you too.

Mary's Announcement: God Calls the Least Likely

Mary did not expect to be chosen. She was from Nazareth, a small town with no reputation. She was a young woman with no wealth, no power, and no prestige. But when God was ready to move in history, He didn't go to a palace. He didn't select a queen or a noblewoman. He chose Mary. He called the least likely.

And so, my dear sisters, if you ever feel unqualified, remember this: God is in the business of using those whom the world overlooks. He does not call the qualified; He qualifies the called. When God calls you, He supplies you with everything you need. The angel greeted Mary with words of favor and assurance: "The Lord is with you!" Let me remind you today, the Lord is with YOU. No matter where you come from, no

matter who has counted you out, if God has called you, you are already equipped for the task.

Mary's Alarm: God's Call is Bigger Than You

Mary was troubled by the angel's words. She was afraid. She didn't understand how or why she had been chosen. And I know some of you feel the same way. The call of God can be intimidating. It shakes us to our core. We ask, "Why me, Lord? How can I do this?"

But hear the words of Gabriel again: "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." My sisters, do not be afraid. God's favor is upon you. You may not have all the answers. You may not feel prepared. But God is in control. He knows exactly why He chose you. And He does not make mistakes.

Mary's Assignment: God Requires Surrender

The angel told Mary her assignment: she would carry the Son of God. It was a calling that would change everything. It would change her body, her reputation, her future. She would be misunderstood. She would face shame. She would endure pain. Yet, she had been chosen for something greater than herself.

And so it is with you. The call of God is not always easy. It will cost you something. It will require faith, sacrifice, and perseverance. But it will also bring unspeakable joy, purpose, and impact. Mary's response was simple: "I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be

fulfilled.” What a powerful declaration! She didn’t have all the details, but she had faith in the One who called her. My sisters, can you say the same? Will you trust God even when you don’t have all the answers? Will you surrender to His call, no matter the cost?

Mary’s Answer: Nothing is Impossible with God

When Mary questioned how this could happen, the angel gave her an answer: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.” This was not something she had to do on her own. The Spirit of God would empower her.

And that is my encouragement to you today. You do not have to rely on your own strength. The same Spirit that came upon Mary is the same Spirit that will come upon you. He will give you the words to speak. He will guide your steps. He will sustain you in difficult seasons. Nothing is impossible with God.

Mary accepted the call with faith, and because she did, she witnessed the power of God up close. She saw miracles. She saw salvation come to earth. She saw the fulfillment of prophecy. And when you say YES to God, you will see Him work in ways you never imagined.

Best Praxis for Women in Ministry

As you step into your calling, remember these five best practices for women in ministry:

1. **Embrace Your Calling with Confidence** – God chose you for a reason. Walk boldly in the assignment He has given you.
2. **Trust God Even When You Don't Understand** – Like Mary, you won't always have all the answers, but trust in God's plan.
3. **Rely on the Holy Spirit** – You are not alone in this journey. Lean on the Spirit for guidance, strength, and wisdom.
4. **Be Ready to Sacrifice** – Ministry comes with challenges, but the reward of obedience is far greater than the cost.
5. **Stay Rooted in the Word and Prayer** – Your strength and wisdom come from God. Stay connected to Him daily through His Word and prayer.

My sisters, if God has called you, He has already equipped you. Like Mary, say YES and watch Him do the impossible through you. The Lord is with you!

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CHAPTER FOUR

A Divine Encounter: When Christ Met Mary - A Word for Women in Ministry

John 20:11-18

Sisters, have you ever found yourself in a moment of doubt, feeling unseen, unheard, or unappreciated? Have you ever questioned your place in ministry, wondering if God truly sees and values you? Let me remind you today that He does! Just as Christ appeared to Mary Magdalene in her sorrow, He appears to us in our seasons of struggle and uncertainty. You are seen. You are valued. You are called.

The Divine Situation:

Mary stood outside the tomb, weeping. She had followed Jesus, served Him, and placed all her hopes in Him, but now she found herself in a season of grief and confusion. She was so overwhelmed by the situation that she didn't even recognize the divine presence around her.

Sisters, does this sound familiar? Sometimes, in our ministry, we get so caught up in our pain, the challenges, the closed doors, and the disappointments that we fail to see that God is still working. But let me encourage you—He has not abandoned you! Even when we don't recognize Him, He is near.

The Divine Savior:

Then, in the midst of her despair, Jesus spoke her name—*Mary!* And in that moment, everything changed. She recognized her Lord, her Master, her Teacher.

God is calling you by name today! He is speaking directly to your heart, reminding you that you are His. Your ministry is not in vain, your labor is not unnoticed, and your faithfulness is not forgotten. You are not just another servant in the Kingdom—you are His daughter, uniquely called and chosen.

The Divine Salutation:

When Mary recognized Jesus, she clung to Him, but He gave her a mission: *Go and tell my brethren!* Sisters, when God meets us in our broken places, it is not just for our comfort—it is for our commission. We are called to go, to proclaim, and to minister to others. Our encounter with Christ is not just for us; it is for the world that needs to hear our testimony.

5 Best Praxis Ideas for Women’s Ministry:

Create Safe Spaces for Healing – Women in ministry need places where they can be honest about their struggles and receive encouragement. Build communities of grace where sisters can share and pray for one another.

Mentorship and Discipleship – Just as Jesus poured into His disciples, we must pour into the next generation of women leaders. Invest in mentoring relationships and discipleship programs.

Preach and Teach with Authority – Mary was entrusted with the message of the resurrection. Women in ministry must be confident in their calling to preach, teach, and proclaim the Gospel with boldness.

Encourage Rest and Renewal – Ministry can be draining. Encourage sabbath rest, spiritual retreats, and self-care so that women leaders can serve from a place of fullness rather than exhaustion.

Advocate for Women’s Voices in the Church – Just as Jesus entrusted Mary with the message, women’s voices matter in ministry. Advocate for women to have seats at the table, leadership roles, and opportunities to serve in their full capacity.

Conclusion:

Mary ran with joy to proclaim that she had seen the risen Lord. Her sorrow turned to joy, her grief to purpose, her confusion to clarity. Sisters, God is calling you to do the same. Rise up, walk in your calling, and proclaim the goodness of the Lord. You are seen. You are called. You are His.

Go forth and tell the world what the Lord has done!

CHAPTER FIVE

The Overflow: Serving a God of More Than Enough

II Kings 4:1-7

Sisters, have you ever found yourself in a place where it seemed like you were at the end of your rope? Where life's burdens felt so heavy that you weren't sure if you had the strength to carry on? Have you ever given everything you had—your time, your energy, your love—only to feel like you were still coming up short?

If that's you, then you're in good company. Because in 2 Kings 4, we meet a woman in a similar place—a widow, overwhelmed by loss, drowning in debt, and on the brink of losing the very thing she held dearest: her children. And yet, in her lowest moment, she discovered the power of a God who is more than enough.

A Desperate Cry for Help

This woman had lost her husband, a man who had faithfully served the Lord. Now, with creditors knocking on her door, threatening to take her sons as slaves, she did what every wise woman of faith must do—she ran to the man of God.

She didn't suffer in silence. She didn't pretend everything was fine. She cried out for help. And let me tell you something: God hears the cries of His daughters! When we bring our brokenness to Him, He does not ignore us. He responds!

What Do You Have?

Elisha's response wasn't to hand her a bag of money. No, he asked her, "*What do you have in your house?*" At first, she thought she had nothing. But then she remembered—she had a little jar of oil.

Sometimes we focus so much on what we've lost that we forget what we still have. God will often use the very thing you think is insignificant to bring about your breakthrough. You may feel like you have nothing left, but God is saying, "*I have already placed in you everything you need to walk in victory.*"

A Faith That Borrows Jars

Elisha instructed the widow to borrow as many empty jars as she could and start pouring her oil into them. Now, this command didn't make much sense. How could a small jar of oil fill multiple containers? But faith doesn't always make sense—faith requires action.

This woman had to move beyond her fear and do something bold. She had to step out in faith, knocking on doors, gathering jars, and believing that somehow, some way, God was going to provide. And He did! The oil kept flowing until every jar was full.

The Power of Private Miracles

Elisha told her to shut the door before she started pouring. Why? Because some miracles aren't meant for public display. There are seasons where God does His best work behind closed doors. In your

ministry, in your life, don't be discouraged if God is working in silence. What He is doing in the secret place will soon overflow into the public place!

Living in the Overflow

When the pouring finally stopped, the widow had more than enough. She was able to pay off her debts and live on what remained. That's the kind of God we serve! He's not just a "get-you-by" God—He's a God of *overflow*!

Sisters, when ministry is tough, when the burden is heavy, when you feel like you're running on empty—remember this: God is the source of your strength. He will take what little you have and multiply it beyond what you could ever imagine. Keep the faith, keep trusting, and keep pouring. The oil will keep flowing as long as there's a vessel ready to receive it!

Best Praxis for Women in Difficult Ministry

Cry Out to God – Never hesitate to bring your struggles before the Lord. He hears you and will respond.

Recognize What You Have – Don't discount the gifts, resources, and anointing God has already placed in your hands.

Step Out in Faith – Even when the instructions don't make sense, trust God and move forward.

Shut the Door and Seek God – Not every season is for public display.
Some miracles happen in the secret place.

Live in the Overflow – Expect God to do exceedingly, abundantly
above all you can ask or think.

Sisters, keep pouring. Keep believing. And watch God prove Himself
as the God of More Than Enough!

CHAPTER SIX

Esther's Bold Faith: A Call to Courage for Women Leaders

Esther 4:7-16

Sister, let's talk. Have you ever felt like you were in a place where God was calling you to step up, but fear was whispering, "Stay quiet"? Have you ever wondered if you were the right person for the job, questioning whether you had the strength, the influence, or the courage to lead? If so, you're in good company—because that's exactly where Esther found herself.

Esther's story isn't just a tale from the past; it's a rallying cry for women in ministry today. God doesn't place us in positions of influence by accident. He positions us on purpose, for a purpose. And when the moment comes to stand up and speak out, we must do so with faith, knowing that we are called for such a time as this.

The Weight of Leadership: Esther's Burden

Imagine this: One moment, you're living your life, minding your business, and the next, you're carrying the weight of a crisis. That's what happened to Esther. She was queen, but she had no idea that a plot was unfolding to destroy her people. When Mordecai sent word, she suddenly had a choice: ignore it and stay safe or speak up and risk everything.^[1] Women in leadership know what it's like to carry a burden. Whether you're leading in the church, the workplace, or your community, you know the pressure of making hard decisions.^[2] The enemy will always try to silence women who are called to lead. Fear

will whisper, “Stay in the background. Don’t rock the boat.” But God says, “I have put you here for a reason.” Like Esther, we can’t afford to stay silent when God has given us a voice to protect, to uplift, and to bring change.

You Are Not Here by Accident: Esther’s Appointment

Esther hesitated at first. And let’s be honest—wouldn’t you? Going before the king uninvited could mean death. But Mordecai didn’t let her off the hook. He reminded her:

“Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (v. 14)

Sister, let me ask you: What if God put you exactly where you are because He needs you there? That position you hold? That ministry you lead? That community you serve? God placed you there on purpose. Esther had every reason to be afraid, but she had an even greater reason to trust. And so do you.

If you’ve ever doubted whether you’re the right person for the job, hear this loud and clear: God does not call the equipped; He equips the called. And sister, He has called YOU.

Lead with Faith: Esther’s Bold Move

Esther didn’t jump into action blindly. She called for a fast. She knew she needed God’s strength and the support of her people. Esther understood that she couldn’t do this alone, and neither can we. Women in ministry need prayer warriors, mentors, and a strong community.

Esther didn't wait for the "perfect moment." She stepped forward in faith and declared:

"If I perish, I perish."

That's the heart of a woman who trusts God more than her fears. That's the spirit of a leader who knows her purpose is bigger than her comfort.

Encouragement for Women Leaders Today

You Are Chosen – God placed you in your role for a reason.

You Are Strong – Even when fear creeps in, God will give you what you need.

You Are Not Alone – Surround yourself with a community that prays and supports you.

You Are Called to Act – Step forward in faith, even when the outcome is uncertain.

Final Word: Rise Up, Woman of God!

Esther's story is your story. The world needs women who are unafraid to lead, to speak up, and to stand for righteousness. God has placed you right where you are, and now, He's calling you to rise up in faith. This is your moment. This is your time. So step forward, knowing that you were made for such a time as this.

5 Best Praxis Lessons for Women Needing Courage

1. Own Your Calling with Confidence

You are not where you are by accident. God has strategically placed you in your position for a divine purpose. When fear tries to make you doubt yourself, remind yourself that God does not make mistakes.

Speak affirmations over your life: *"I am called. I am chosen. I am equipped."*

Journal your journey—write down the moments where God has confirmed your calling.

Surround yourself with mentors and spiritual sisters who remind you of your purpose.

2. Face Fear with Faith-Filled Action

Lesson: Courage is not the absence of fear; it is faith in action despite fear. Fear may whisper, "You're not ready," but faith declares, "God is with me."

- Take one bold step this week toward something that scares you (e.g., speaking up in a meeting, accepting a new leadership role).
- Meditate on Joshua 1:9: *"Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*
- Pray for boldness daily—ask God to strengthen you in moments of uncertainty.

3. Build a Courageous Community

Esther didn't stand alone—she called her people to fast and pray with her. Courage is strengthened in the presence of a supportive and faith-filled community.

- Identify three women who inspire you and seek their wisdom and support.
- Create or join a sisterhood of faith-filled women where you can share struggles, victories, and prayers.
- Develop a habit of intercession—when fear creeps in, don't just pray alone, ask others to pray with you.

4. Prepare, Then Step Forward in Obedience

Courage is not reckless; it is a combination of preparation and obedience. Esther fasted before she approached the king, showing us that wisdom and courage go hand in hand.

- Before making a bold move, spend time fasting and seeking God's direction.
- Develop a strategy for what you need to do—whether it's leading a ministry, launching a new initiative, or confronting a challenge.
- Keep a "Victory Journal" to remind yourself of past moments where preparation and faith led to success.

5. Trust the Outcome to God

Courageous women understand that their job is obedience—God’s job is the outcome. Esther said, *“If I perish, I perish,”* meaning she surrendered the results to God.

- Release the need for control—trust that God will work all things for good (Romans 8:28).
- Write down one fear you have today, then pray and physically release it (tear up the paper or place it at the altar).
- Declare daily: *“I will step forward in faith and leave the results to God.”*

Final Word: Walk in Courage

Courage is built one faithful step at a time. As you apply these lessons, trust that God is shaping you into a bold, fearless woman of faith. Step forward, sister—this is your time!

CHAPTER SEVEN

Grace in the Wilderness: Help for Hagar

Genesis 16:7-16

Let's take a moment to reflect on a woman who has experienced a deep injustice—one that resonates for many women in leadership, especially those who feel unseen, unheard, and unhealed by society. I'm talking about Hagar, a woman who found herself in a painful situation, much like so many women today. We can find hope and wisdom in her story, even in the wilderness.

Hagar's Wilderness

You see, Hagar's journey was not one of her own choosing. She was a slave in the household of Sarai and Abram. A woman who had no power, no voice, and yet, through the cruel twists of fate, she became a mother at the command of someone else. Can you imagine being told to bear a child for someone else? A woman's body used as a vessel for someone else's plan, and when things turned bitter, she was discarded, forced into the wilderness to fend for herself.

But the beautiful thing is that, even in that wilderness, God sees her.

Hagar's story begins with flight. She was running away, desperate, vulnerable, and pregnant. But God found her. The angel of the Lord didn't look away. He saw her, and He spoke to her.

Maybe you've felt like Hagar. Alone, invisible, running from situations that weigh you down. Perhaps, as a woman in leadership, you've faced

injustice or challenges that no one seems to understand. But let me remind you—God sees you. Just as He found Hagar by the spring in the wilderness, He's present in your struggle.

Grace in the Wilderness: Five Best Praxis Ideas for Women in Leadership

Run to the Right Place When Hagar ran away, she found herself by a spring—a place of life and nourishment. Women in leadership must also find their "spring"—a place of spiritual renewal. Take time to recharge in the presence of God. It's easy to keep running without stopping to drink from the well of God's grace, but He invites us to stop and refresh our souls. In your leadership, find spaces where you can hear from God and refuel.

Don't Be Afraid to Face the Hard Places When Hagar meets God, He tells her to return to Sarai and submit to her. Sometimes, as women in leadership, we are called to face the very things that have caused us pain. God doesn't always take us out of our difficult situations. Instead, He equips us to face them with grace. I know it's hard, but God has a way of using our struggles for something greater. Humility in those moments can be the stepping stone to growth and healing.

Trust in God's Promise God didn't just see Hagar's pain; He made her a promise. He told her that her descendants would be numerous, and that her son, Ishmael, would be a blessing in his own right. Even in your suffering, God has a plan for your future. The challenges you face today don't define your tomorrow. Trust in God's promises for your leadership journey, no matter how impossible they may seem.

Create Your Own "Beer Lahai Roi" After God spoke to her, Hagar named the place "Beer Lahai Roi," meaning "The Well of the Living One Who Sees Me." When God meets us in our struggles, He often gives us a place to remember His faithfulness. Create a "memory stone" in your leadership—whether it's through journaling, prayer, or creating a tradition that helps you remember how God has seen you and been faithful. These "places" help us re-center when life feels chaotic.

Empower Others with Your Story After receiving God's grace, Hagar didn't keep it to herself. She went back and gave birth to her son, Ishmael. Your leadership journey, no matter how hard, is a testimony of God's grace. Share it. Let other women see that they, too, are not alone. The power of your testimony can break chains and lift others who are suffering. Be a beacon of hope by sharing the ways God has moved in your life.

Conclusion

Like Hagar, women in leadership can find themselves in the wilderness—unseen, misunderstood, and mistreated. But just like Hagar, you are not forgotten. God sees you. He hears your cries, and He is with you, even when it feels like you are facing it all alone.

God's grace is in the wilderness. It's in the hardest, most painful places. And in those places, He makes promises. He gives strength. He calls us to remember, and He calls us to share that hope with others. Wherever you are today—remember, you are seen by the God who loves you deeply.

When you feel invisible, when you feel like running away—remember that God is there, and He has a plan. You are never alone in your wilderness. You are seen. You are loved. You are equipped.

May you find your own spring, your own place of renewal. Keep trusting, keep facing the hard things, and keep empowering others with your story. You're not just surviving—you're being equipped for something extraordinary. God's grace is with you.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Mama's Legacy: A Mother's Lasting Impact (*Remembering a Mother's Memory*)

Proverbs 31:10-31

You know, as I think about the life of a godly woman, I can't help but be reminded of the Proverbs 31 woman. The one whose worth is described as being "far above rubies." I think about this passage and how it paints the picture of a woman who carries strength, dignity, and kindness in everything she does. She's a woman whose life is full of love and service—devoted to her family, her community, and her faith. When I think about my mama, I can see her in every word of this scripture. Her life was the embodiment of the Proverbs 31 woman, and her legacy of love and faith is something I hold close to my heart.

Mama wasn't just a mother or a wife; she was a servant of God, a friend, a sister in Christ, and a matriarch. She touched everyone she met with a heart full of grace and a spirit that was always willing to give. Looking back on her life, I see four qualities that truly set her apart: her worth, her work, her witness, and her wisdom.

A Mother's Worth

The first thing that stands out to me in Proverbs 31 is when it asks, "Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies." And when I think about Mama, I know that this wasn't just about her outward appearance or anything material—her worth came from the depths of her character and her love for others. She was a treasure, not because of

what she had, but because of who she was. Her love was constant and her faith unwavering. Mama didn't just speak kindness; she lived it. She radiated a strength that made everyone around her feel safe, valued, and seen.

Her worth wasn't just in her devotion to her family, but in the way she showed up for her community, always with a smile, always with love, and always with a prayer. She lived her faith every day, and that's what made her priceless to us all.

A Mother's Work

Now, Proverbs 31 also speaks about how this virtuous woman “seeks wool and flax” and “willingly works with her hands.” Mama lived this out every single day. She was dedicated not just to her family, but to everyone around her. She would be the first one up in the morning, making sure everyone had what they needed, her hands never resting, her heart always thinking about how she could serve. Whether she was preparing meals or offering a helping hand, Mama's work was always full of love.

Her work was more than just work—it was a form of worship. Whatever she did, she did it with joy, purpose, and excellence. Whether she was cooking a meal or caring for someone in need, her work reflected her heart for God. And she wasn't just a caregiver; Mama was a visionary. She showed us that a godly woman can be both strong and compassionate, diligent and tender, all at once.

A Mother's Witness

In Proverbs 31, we also hear about a woman who “extends her hand to the poor” and “reaches out her hands to the needy.” That was Mama—her generosity knew no bounds. Her love wasn’t just limited to her family; it extended to everyone she encountered. She had a ministry of presence, always willing to bless someone with her time, her resources, or a word of encouragement. I’ve seen so many people whose lives were changed just because Mama cared.

Her witness was powerful. People found comfort in her prayers, strength in her words, and hope in her actions. Mama had this way of making you feel like everything would be okay. It wasn’t just her love that touched people; it was her unwavering faith and the peace she carried that reassured us all.

A Mother's Wisdom

Finally, Proverbs 31 says, “She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness.” Mama was the definition of wisdom. Her words always came with grace, understanding, and a depth that only comes from a life spent walking closely with the Lord. Her wisdom wasn’t just something she said—it was something she lived.

Whenever we needed guidance, whether big or small, Mama had the right word at the right time. She taught us to trust in God’s faithfulness, to rely on His word, and to never lose sight of the importance of kindness. Her wisdom shaped not only her family but everyone who was blessed enough to cross her path.

Conclusion: Mama's Lasting Legacy

Proverbs 31 concludes by saying, “Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.” Mama’s beauty was never about outward appearance—it was about her heart for God. She lived with humility, grace, and a devotion that made everyone around her want to be better. Her legacy is one that will continue to shape us for generations to come. And as we remember her, we know that her life wasn’t just a story; it was a call to live with purpose, love, and faith.

Mama would want us to remember these things as we continue to carry on her legacy:

Know your worth – Your value isn’t determined by anything external, but by the love and character you embody.

Work with purpose – Everything you do can be an act of worship, done with joy and dedication.

Be a witness of love – Let your love for others shine through in your actions, showing kindness and compassion to all.

Seek wisdom – Walk closely with God, and let His wisdom guide your words and decisions.

Leave a legacy of faith – The way you live today will inspire those who come after you. Let your life be a testimony of God’s faithfulness.

Mama’s legacy is alive in us, and we are forever grateful for the beautiful example she set.

CHAPTER NINE

Faith for the Leftovers: A Lesson from the Crumbs

St. Mark 7:24-30

Good morning, family! Today we're going to dive into a passage that speaks powerfully about faith, humility, and God's grace. We're talking about a woman who had her back against the wall, her child suffering, and no one willing to help her. The title of this message? "Please give me the crumbs."

Let's start by setting the scene. Jesus, who's been busy healing, teaching, and performing miracles, heads to a more quiet region—Tyre and Sidon. But even here, He can't escape the crowds. And who does He encounter? A woman with no status, no privileges, and no one to stand with her. But what she does have is faith—a faith that's about to be tested in a powerful way.

I. The Woman's Problem (Mark 7:25)

The problem? This woman's daughter was tormented by an unclean spirit. Imagine that—her child, the one she loved more than anything, was being spiritually attacked, and there was nothing she could do about it. Her situation wasn't just a bad day—it was a spiritual crisis. A battle beyond her control.

But here's where it gets good—when this woman hears that Jesus is nearby, she doesn't hesitate. She runs to Him. The text doesn't say what exactly she heard about Jesus, but she knew enough to believe that He had the power to do something about her problem.

Isn't that good news today? When you've got problems you can't solve, when the mountains are too high and the rivers too deep, Jesus has the power to change everything. He can heal the broken, fix the brokenhearted, and deliver from the darkness.

Sometimes, it's the weight of our problems that pushes us toward Jesus. When life gets heavy, when we're at the end of our rope, that's when we realize there's no one else to turn to but Him.

II. The Woman's Position (Mark 7:26a)

Now, let's talk about the woman's position. She's a Greek woman from the region of Syro-Phoenicia—an outsider. She's not part of the Jewish community. She didn't have the law of Moses, nor the prophets. She was from a people who worshiped foreign gods.

She was an outsider in every sense—culturally, religiously, and socially. Maybe some of you can relate. Maybe you've felt like you didn't belong, like you weren't good enough, like you were on the outside looking in. But here's the good news: faith doesn't care about your background or your status. Faith doesn't care about what others say or where you're from. Faith in God brings you into His presence.

This woman had no earthly resources. She was alone, and yet, she believed that Jesus could do something that no one else could. That's what faith looks like—it shows up when everything else says, "You don't belong here."

III. The Woman's Plea (Mark 7:26b-28)

Now we come to her plea. This woman wasn't just asking Jesus once—she kept on asking. The Bible says she kept begging Him to cast the demon out of her daughter. She was desperate. A mother in crisis, standing in the gap for her child.

This, my friends, is intercessory prayer. Intercession is when you pray on behalf of someone else, standing in the gap for them when they can't stand for themselves. This woman's prayer wasn't cute or quiet; it was a bold, raw, desperate plea for her child's life.

Sometimes, that's what our prayers need to sound like—raw, real, and unfiltered. Sometimes we need to stop worrying about how we look or what others think. We need to fall at Jesus' feet and say, "Lord, help me!"

Her plea was so powerful that even though Jesus initially tested her faith by saying it wasn't yet time to give to the Gentiles, she didn't get offended. She didn't walk away. Instead, she responded, "Yes, Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

Here's the thing: She understood that even the smallest portion of Jesus' grace was enough to change her life. She didn't need the whole loaf—just a crumb. Because what's in the loaf is in the crumbs.

Best Practices for Praying for Others

As we reflect on this woman's story, let me give you five best practices to remember when praying for others:

1. **Be Persistent:** Don't give up when the answer doesn't come immediately. Keep praying, even when it feels like nothing is happening. This woman kept asking. Your persistence in prayer shows the depth of your faith.
2. **Pray Boldly:** Pray with confidence, knowing that God hears you and has the power to act. Don't be afraid to ask for big things, even when you feel unworthy. God delights in hearing the cries of His children.
3. **Pray for the Impossible:** Just like this woman was praying for a miracle, pray for things that seem impossible. If God can heal a daughter possessed by a demon, He can certainly handle whatever situation you're facing.
4. **Pray with Humility:** Recognize that we don't deserve God's grace, but we can still ask for it. Just like this woman, come before Him humbly, acknowledging His sovereignty and grace.
5. **Pray in Faith:** Believe that God can and will move. This woman believed that even a crumb from Jesus' table would be enough, and her faith was rewarded.

Conclusion

As we close today, let me remind you: Even if you feel like all you have are crumbs, Jesus can do a miracle with that. Just like this woman, we can trust that the leftovers of God's grace are enough to heal, restore, and deliver.

Jesus is the Bread of Life. His broken body on the cross opened the door for us all. The crumbs we receive from Him carry all the power of salvation, healing, and grace.

So if you feel like you're only worthy of the crumbs, know this: Those crumbs carry everything you need. And if you're standing in the gap for someone else, don't hesitate to pray, knowing that Jesus will respond to your faith.

Whatever you need—whether it's a crumb or the whole loaf—Jesus has enough to meet your every need. Come to the table, fall at His feet, and trust that His grace is sufficient for you.

Can we get a witness?

CHAPTER TEN

The Hidden Hero: Honoring Moses' Mama

Exodus 2:1-10

As I reflect on the story of Moses' mother, I am reminded of the incredible strength and faith that mothers have, especially when it feels like the world is working against them. Moses' mother, a woman who feared God more than man, is an example we should all look up to. She showed us what it means to trust God in difficult circumstances, to protect and nurture your children, and to hold onto faith when everything around you feels uncertain.

In a time when the government had turned against the Israelites and ordered the death of every male child, Moses' mama had a decision to make. She could have easily given into fear and let her child be taken, but instead, she chose to trust God. The world needs more mothers like her—mothers who fear God above all else, who will fight for their children and keep them safe from the dangers of this world.

We need mothers today who won't throw their babies away. We need mothers who will protect their children, who will pray for them, and who will raise them to be the mighty men and women God has called them to be. If you are a mother, know that you have a divine assignment from God: to raise children who are strong in the Lord, who will do great things in His kingdom.

Moses' Mama Had an Assignment

In Exodus 2:1-2, we learn that Moses' mother was chosen by God for a specific purpose. She was to marry a man of the tribe of Levi and give birth to a child who would one day lead the Israelites out of Egypt. God's plan for mankind is to reproduce His image, and Moses' mother was part of that divine plan.

But, oh, the difficulty of her assignment. She had to raise her child in a time when the world was hostile to him simply because of who he was. Moses' mother's calling was not easy; it was painful and full of obstacles. But she trusted in the God who had a plan for her son, and she was willing to do whatever it took to see that plan fulfilled.

Ladies, I want to encourage you today. If you're a mother, you too have an assignment from God. You may not know all the details, but you can trust that God has a plan for your child's life. Even in tough times, when it feels like the world is against you and your child, hang on! God sees you, He cares for you, and He has a purpose for you and your baby.

Moses' Mama Had an Assessment

When Moses' mother could no longer hide him, she took a step of faith and placed him in an ark of bulrushes. She made the decision to trust God with her child's future. This was not easy. She had nurtured him, fed him, and loved him for three months, and now she had to let go. But she had faith that God was in control, and that He would take care of her baby.

Mothers, this is where faith comes in. Sometimes, we have to make tough decisions, and we don't always know the outcome. But God sees the bigger picture, and when we trust Him with our children, He is faithful to guide and protect them.

Just like Moses' mama, we need to shelter our children from harm. We need to protect them from the evil influences of this world. And when we can't do it on our own, we need to trust that God will guide them and keep them safe.

Moses' Mama Had an Answer

When Moses' mother placed him in the ark, she didn't just hope for the best. She had faith that God was going to intervene. She sent Moses' sister Miriam to watch over him, and God worked through that situation in ways Moses' mama could never have imagined. Pharaoh's daughter, of all people, found Moses and took him in, sparing his life.

Sisters, God has a plan for your children, even when it doesn't look like it. You may not see the way, but trust that God is working behind the scenes. He will use people you never imagined to help your children, and He will protect them in ways you never thought possible.

The Praxis for Us Today

Now, as I reflect on this powerful story, I want to share five key practices that we can apply to our own lives, whether we are mothers, spiritual mothers, or women of faith:

1. **Trust God's Plan** – Even in difficult times, trust that God has a plan for your child's life. No matter how hard things get, keep praying and believing that God is in control.
2. **Protect Your Children** – Don't expose them to the harmful things of this world. Shield them from negative influences, and guide them toward the truth of God's Word.
3. **Walk by Faith** – Sometimes, you won't know the outcome, but faith is about trusting God with what you can't see. Just like Moses' mother, you can rest in the assurance that God will take care of your children.
4. **Trust in Divine Intervention** – God can use anyone, even your enemies, to fulfill His purpose for your children. Trust that He will provide, protect, and guide them, even when you can't be there.
5. **Let Go and Let God** – There comes a time when you must trust God enough to let go. Let your children go into God's hands, knowing that He is the ultimate protector and provider.

I want to encourage you, woman of God, to be like Moses' mama. Be a woman who trusts God with everything, especially with your children. God has a plan for their lives, and He has a plan for yours too. Keep the faith, and watch how He works miracles in your life and in the lives of those you love.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

The Miracle of Nain: Don't Give Up, It Ain't Over Yet

Luke 7:11-17

As I reflect on the miracle of Nain, I'm reminded of how often life can feel like a funeral procession. The weight of loss, the sorrow of setbacks, the feeling of being stuck in a painful cycle. And yet, in those moments, Jesus shows up. Not in the way we expect, not with a grand entrance, but with compassion and power to change everything.

I've learned that sometimes the hardest seasons are the very places where we encounter the greatest miracles. This widow in Nain was carrying a dead son, the only one she had left. And it's in this space of absolute devastation that Jesus enters. He's about to change everything, and he's about to show us something profound: it ain't over until God says it is.

1. Embrace the Encounter with Jesus

Jesus didn't just pass by the widow; He saw her. When Jesus sees us, He doesn't just glance in our direction. He takes notice of our pain, our grief, our struggles. Just like He saw the widow, He sees you. No matter where you are or what you're facing, Jesus is not unaware. He's not distant or indifferent. His compassion compels Him to act on your behalf. So, the first tool I want to give you is to remember that **Jesus sees you**—right where you are, in your pain and in your struggles. This awareness alone can give you the strength to keep going.

2. Trust in His Compassionate Intervention

When Jesus saw the widow, He didn't offer a shallow "I'm sorry for your loss." No. He spoke directly to her pain with action. He didn't wait for her to ask; He acted out of His compassion. **"Do not weep,"** He said. Jesus spoke words of hope in the midst of hopelessness. He doesn't show up to leave things the same—He shows up to change things. You may be in a tough spot, but I'm telling you, it ain't over yet. The second tool is to **believe that His compassion is at work in your situation.** Trust that He is working even when you can't see it.

3. Pause to Hear His Word of Life

Jesus stopped the funeral procession. He interrupted the sorrow and declared life. He touched the open coffin and spoke to the young man, **"Young man, I say to you, arise."** Jesus' words weren't just for the man; they were for everyone who heard them. They were a declaration that **life is more powerful than death.** His word still has the power to shift situations, heal wounds, and resurrect dreams. In the midst of your struggles, pause to hear the voice of God. **Get still enough to listen,** because His word brings life to dead places.

4. Align Your Faith with His Power

When Jesus speaks, it demands a response. For the widow, the miracle came when she received His word. For the young man, life came when he responded to the call. Faith isn't just believing something could happen; it's responding to God's call. Jesus doesn't ask us to stay in despair. He asks us to respond with faith. **Take action on His word.**

Your faith is the catalyst for transformation. Whatever God is speaking over you, trust that He has the power to bring it to fruition.

5. Remember That God Has the Last Word

Death may have had the first word, but Jesus had the last. The crowd saw a dead man being carried out; Jesus saw a man who would rise again. The widow thought her journey had ended, but Jesus wasn't finished with her story. **It ain't over yet.** Whatever challenge you're facing, no matter how final it may feel, remember that Jesus has the last word. **He is the resurrection and the life,** and in His timing, He will make all things new. So, **hold on to His promises,** because they are sure, and they are faithful.

Closing Reflection: The Transformation of Nain

The city of Nain was known for its beauty, but after Jesus' miracle, it became a place of wonder. The people glorified God, saying, "**A great prophet has risen among us.**" And the report of this miracle spread everywhere. When Jesus shows up, He transforms everything—our pain, our grief, our limitations—into a testimony of His power. Just as He changed Nain that day, He can change your life today.

So, my friend, whatever you're going through, **don't give up. It ain't over yet.** Jesus is with you, and He's got the power to turn your sorrow into joy, your mourning into dancing, your loss into restoration. Keep holding on, because your miracle is closer than you think.

In the midst of your darkest moments, trust that God is at work. You are seen, you are loved, and it's not over until He says it is.

CHAPTER TWELVE:

"God Came Through: A Miracle for Mama"

1 Kings 17

There are moments in life when we can't help but be amazed at how God shows up, especially for mothers who carry the weight of the world on their shoulders. I think back to my own mama—oh, what a woman of faith. Her life was a testament to what it means to trust God even when the situation didn't make sense. If it weren't for her example, I don't know if I would have the kind of faith I have today.

I know some of you reading this know exactly what I mean. Life can get heavy—especially as a mother—and there are times when it feels like everything is falling apart. But let me tell you something today: **God still works miracles for mothers.** And just like the widow in 1 Kings 17, God is more than able to come through for you when you trust Him, even in the toughest of times.

Let's dive into this incredible story about a woman who, like many of us, was facing an impossible situation. She was living in a time of famine and hardship. No food, no resources, no help. She had nothing left to give. And yet, God was about to show her—and us—a profound truth: **when you put God first, you'll never run out.**

A New Ministry Location: God's Timing is Perfect

The story starts with Elijah, a prophet who was sent by God to a widow in Zarephath. Now, I'm sure this was not the location Elijah had in mind for his next ministry assignment. Zarephath wasn't exactly a flourishing place. It was a city where people were struggling. The widow, in

particular, was at the end of her rope. She had a small amount of flour and oil left, enough for one last meal for her and her son. She was literally preparing to die.

But here's the thing: **sometimes, God calls us to places where we feel like we're out of options.** He calls us to places where things are tight, where resources are scarce, and where it seems like nothing good can come from it. Yet, those are often the very places where God is most ready to do the miraculous. **Zarephath** means "refining," and that's exactly what God was doing—not only in Elijah's life but in the widow's life as well. God was refining them both.

I can't tell you how many times God has led me into situations that felt like a place of refining—where the resources were few, the struggles were many, and all I had left was faith. And in those moments, God has shown up in ways I never expected. The miracle didn't come until I showed up at the place He called me to be.

A New Ministry Level: Stepping Out in Faith

Elijah's faith is put to the test when he arrives at Zarephath. He sees the widow gathering sticks and asks her for a little water, which she agrees to give. Then, he takes it a step further and asks for a piece of bread. This was a bold request. The woman had no bread to give. She had just enough flour and oil to make one final meal before she and her son would die.

Here's where it gets interesting: **God asks us to do things that don't make sense in the natural.** He calls us to give when we feel like we don't have anything left to give. He asks us to trust Him when the

circumstances scream “it’s over.” But this is where the miracle happens. This is where God does what only He can do.

The widow could have said no. She could have refused, thinking, *How am I supposed to give to someone else when I’m barely making it myself?* But instead, she obeyed. And in that moment of faith, **God opened the door for her miracle.**

A New Ministry Look: Obeying God’s Word in the Midst of Crisis

Elijah’s prophetic words to the widow were simple: “Go, make me a small cake first, and bring it to me. And afterward, make some for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord: ‘The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.’”

Do you know what that means? **It means that when you obey God, even when it doesn’t make sense, He will provide for you in ways you could never imagine.** The widow was in the middle of a crisis, but her faith led to a miracle. Her obedience unlocked God’s provision. The flour and oil didn’t run out; she and her son ate for many days.

Sometimes, I get scared too. Sometimes, I wonder how things are going to work out. But I’ve learned that **God can do more with our little than we ever could on our own.** If we’re willing to put Him first—even when it seems impossible—He will provide for us in ways that defy logic.

5 Best Praxis for Trusting God’s Miracles in Your Life:

1. **Obey God's Word, Even When It Doesn't Make Sense:** Like the widow, there will be times when you feel like you don't have anything left to give. But when God calls you to obey, do it! Your obedience will unlock His provision.
2. **Trust God's Timing:** The widow didn't know when the miracle would come. But she trusted God, and He provided just what she needed at the right time. Trust that God knows the right moment to show up.
3. **Serve Others First:** The widow was asked to put Elijah's needs before her own. Sometimes, we have to step out and serve others—even when we're in need ourselves. It's in serving others that God shows up for us.
4. **Live in Faith, Not Fear:** The widow's first response was fear. Elijah had to tell her not to fear. Don't let fear hold you back from stepping into what God has for you. Trust Him to provide.
5. **Expect Miracles in the Most Unlikely Places:** Sometimes, God calls us to places that seem barren and hopeless. But that's exactly where He wants to show His power. Watch for His miracles, especially when everything around you looks impossible.

Mothers, just like the widow of Zarephath, God is ready to show up and show out on your behalf. All it takes is faith and obedience. God came through for her, and He'll come through for you too. Hold on, because your miracle is on the way.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Don't Look Back: The Warning of Lot's Wife

Remember Lot's Wife

Luke 17:32

Let's take a moment to talk about a woman in Scripture who, at first glance, might seem insignificant but carries a weighty lesson for us all. I'm talking about Lot's wife—yes, the one who turned into a pillar of salt. She doesn't have a name, doesn't say a word, and doesn't appear to be anything more than a fleeting character in the biblical narrative. But in reality, she's a cautionary tale that still speaks to us today.

You see, Lot's wife never gets much attention. We don't know her family history, what she looked like, or much about her personality. We don't even get a glimpse into her inner world—her hopes, her dreams, her struggles. But here's the kicker: Jesus, the Savior Himself, tells us to remember her. And when the Savior says "remember," you better pay attention.

When we take a closer look at Lot's wife, we discover that the one thing she left behind, the one thing that marked her life, was a tragic moment of disobedience to God. She is a symbol of human rebellion, of clinging to the things of this world and turning away from salvation when it's within reach.

The Tragedy of Unbelief

Let's think about her for a moment. Lot's wife had an opportunity to escape. The angels had come to warn her, urging her to flee the

impending destruction of Sodom. They gave her clear instructions: "Don't look back." The city of Sodom was about to be destroyed because of its wickedness, but God, in His mercy, had sent a way of escape.

But when she had the chance to follow God's command, Lot's wife hesitated. She couldn't let go of Sodom—the city she had called home, the city that had given her everything she thought she wanted. Sodom was her comfort zone, her identity, her place of security. The destruction of that place felt like losing herself.

When she turned around to look back, she was not just looking at a city being destroyed. She was looking at the part of herself she was unwilling to leave behind. Her heart was still in Sodom. Her longing for the past, her desire to hold onto her life as it was, blinded her to the urgency of God's call.

And in that moment, her unbelief—her refusal to trust God's plan, His salvation, and His timing—became her undoing. The result of her disobedience was immediate: she became a pillar of salt, frozen in time as a warning for all who would hear it.

Lessons from Lot's Wife:

Let me ask you: Have you ever found yourself standing between the life God has for you and the life you've built for yourself? Are you holding onto things, relationships, or dreams that God is calling you to leave behind? Lot's wife serves as a mirror to us all. Her story isn't just about looking back physically—it's about the heart. She represents the danger of letting your affection for the world override your obedience to God.

It's so easy to fall into the trap of believing that our plans, our desires, and our comforts are more important than following God's Word. But remember this: the things you hold onto too tightly may be the very things that keep you from the life God has for you. When we look back, we're choosing to stay in the past rather than moving forward with faith.

The Woman's Affection for Sodom:

When the angels told Lot's family to flee, they gave them a command: *Don't look back*. But Lot's wife didn't obey. Why? Because she had an affection for Sodom. She loved the city, the lifestyle, the comforts. Sodom had become her identity. The pleasures of sin, the thrills, the status—she was in love with it all.

You see, there's a danger in holding onto what the world offers. When God tells us to move on, we must move on. We cannot cling to sin or worldly pleasures just because they feel good in the moment. If God says leave it behind, then it's time to go. Lot's wife teaches us that there's nothing worth looking back at when God is calling us to move forward.

The Woman's Affinity with Sodom:

Lot's wife didn't just love the city; she had an affinity for it. She had become one with it. Her kinship with the people of Sodom made it harder for her to obey God's command to leave. She was tied to the culture, the people, the way of life. And because of that, when it was time to escape, she couldn't bring herself to let go. She had too much of herself invested in that city.

Let this serve as a warning to us. We must not allow ourselves to become so intertwined with the world's culture that we can't hear God's call to leave it behind. There's nothing wrong with enjoying life, but when our identity and security become tied to the world's standards and ways, we've drifted too far. Lot's wife's fate is a reminder that when we make the world our home, we lose sight of the true Home that God is preparing for us.

The Woman's Annihilation Because of Sodom:

Lot's wife's destruction was the result of her unbelief. She didn't trust that God would do what He said He would do. She thought she could escape the wrath and still hold on to what was familiar. But disobedience to God's Word leads to destruction. When we fail to trust God fully, when we refuse to let go of what's behind, we risk our spiritual well-being. She could have been saved, but her hesitation, her refusal to obey, led to her annihilation.

Conclusion:

Lot's wife serves as a reminder that we must not look back. There's nothing in this world worth turning around for. God is calling us to move forward, to follow His Word, to trust in His salvation. Our obedience to God is not just for our benefit; it's for His glory. We don't have to suffer the same fate as Lot's wife if we choose to trust in His promises and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Five Best Praxis Ideas:

1. **Evaluate Your Attachments:** Reflect on the things or people you are holding onto too tightly. Ask yourself: Is there anything in my life that I'm unwilling to let go of, even if God is calling me to move forward?
2. **Commit to Obedience:** Make a conscious decision to obey God's instructions, no matter how difficult it might seem. Trust that His plan for your life is better than anything the world can offer.
3. **Guard Your Heart:** Be careful about where your affections lie. The things of this world can easily distract you from your purpose. Regularly check your heart and priorities.
4. **Keep Your Eyes on the Prize:** Don't get distracted by past mistakes or present temptations. Focus on the hope and future God has for you. Press forward, not backward.
5. **Encourage Others to Move Forward:** Be a voice of encouragement for others who are struggling to let go of their past. Remind them of the hope that lies ahead when we trust God completely.

Remember Lot's wife. Don't look back. Keep moving forward in faith, because there's nothing in this world worth returning to.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

A Worship-Filled Home: Creating a Godly Atmosphere

John 12:1-10 (NKJV)

I believe the true heartbeat of a worship-filled home is centered in how we serve, how we give, and how we reflect Christ in our daily lives. Today, I want to share the importance of creating a godly atmosphere—one where Christ is at the center of everything we do. When I read this passage from John 12, I can't help but be amazed by the profound example set by Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. They show us that worship is not just about what we do on Sundays, but about our whole life—how we serve, how we give, and how we witness Christ to those around us.

A worship-filled home starts with having a heart for worship. When our hearts are full of gratitude and love for Christ, it overflows into every aspect of our lives. Every room, every conversation, every act of service becomes an offering to the Lord. This passage in John 12 paints a beautiful picture of what that looks like.

A Heart for Worship: Martha's Service

Let's first look at Martha. We often remember her for being busy and distracted (Luke 10:38-42), but here, she's serving the Lord with her whole heart. Martha isn't just making dinner; she's creating an atmosphere of worship. Everything she does, from preparing the meal to setting the table, is an offering to Jesus. It's a reminder to me that worship is not just about songs and prayers; it's about the work we do for Christ, whether we're serving in the kitchen or in the community.

I love that Martha is a picture of worship through service. When we serve in the Lord's house or serve our families, it's an act of worship. So, let me ask you: what does your service look like? Is it done with a heart of worship? Whether you're serving in your home, at church, or in the community, know that God sees and honors that as worship.

A Heart for Worship: Mary's Sacrifice

Then there's Mary. Mary's act of worship is deeply personal. She gives something priceless—her alabaster jar of spikenard, which was worth an entire year's wages. She breaks the jar and pours it out on Jesus' feet, wiping them with her hair. This is not a casual act of worship. It's a sacrifice. It's costly. It's deeply intimate.

I think about how Mary's worship speaks to me on so many levels. She didn't just give the Lord a little. She gave Him her best. How often do I hold back from offering God my best because I'm worried about what others think? Worship, like Mary's, isn't about public approval; it's about giving Christ the best of what we have, no matter the cost.

This brings me to the heart of worship: **sacrifice**. True worship isn't comfortable. It doesn't always make sense. But it's always worth it. Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Mary's heart was fully devoted to Christ, and it showed in her sacrificial act of worship.

A Heart for Worship: Lazarus' Witness

Lazarus is a powerful reminder of the witness our lives can be. Lazarus didn't have to say a word. His very presence at the table was a testimony

to the power of Jesus. People came from all around to see Lazarus, the man who had been dead and was now alive. His life was a walking, breathing sermon on the resurrection power of Christ.

Our worship, too, is a witness to the world. When people see how we live, how we serve, and how we love Christ, it draws them closer to Him. Our lives should be filled with the fragrance of Christ, just like the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil Mary poured out. We are called to be living testimonies of God's goodness, mercy, and grace.

A Heart for Worship: Judas' Contempt

It's also important to recognize the presence of Judas in this story. Judas' words and actions stand in stark contrast to Mary's worship. He criticizes her, accusing her of wasting the oil that could have been sold to help the poor. His problem, however, wasn't a concern for the poor—it was that he didn't understand the value of worship.

Here's the thing: Whenever we choose to worship with all our heart, there will always be people who don't understand. They'll criticize, mock, or question why we worship the way we do. But remember, their criticism is often a reflection of their own heart, not yours. Don't let anyone stop you from giving your best to the Lord.

A Heart for Worship: Jesus' Response

What I love about this passage is Jesus' response. When Judas questions Mary's actions, Jesus defends her. He says, "Let her alone; she has done a good work for Me" (verse 7). Jesus sees the heart behind the act. He understands the sacrifice. He honors her worship.

When we worship with a pure heart, God sees that, and He honors it. Even if no one else notices, Jesus sees our worship. That’s what matters most.

Conclusion: A Worship-Filled Home

A worship-filled home is a home where Christ is the center of everything. It’s a place where we serve Him with our best, where we give sacrificially, and where our lives become a witness to the world around us. And while others may not always understand or appreciate it, we can rest assured that God honors every act of worship done in His name.

Let’s make our homes places of worship—not just in song, but in service, sacrifice, and witness. Let our homes be filled with the fragrance of worship, just like the house in Bethany was filled with the fragrance of Mary’s oil. When we do, we will see the power of God move in ways we never imagined.

5 Praxis Ideas for Creating a Worship-Filled Home:

1. **Serve with Joy:** Find opportunities to serve your family, church, and community. Turn every act of service into an act of worship.
2. **Give Your Best:** What is your “alabaster jar”? Offer your best to God in every area of your life—your time, resources, and talents.
3. **Be a Witness:** Let your life be a testimony of God’s grace and power. Live in a way that points others to Christ.

4. **Ignore Criticism:** When others question your worship, keep your focus on God. Worship with a heart that seeks His approval, not the approval of others.
5. **Worship with a Pure Heart:** Worship God with sincerity and authenticity. Know that He sees and honors every sacrifice you make for Him.

A worship-filled home begins with a heart that is fully devoted to Christ. Let's strive to make our homes places where worship is the center of everything we do.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

A Warrior's Heart: Deborah's Legacy of Strength, Courage, and Faith

Judges

4:1-21

There's something extraordinary about a woman who rises to meet the battles of her time with strength, wisdom, and unwavering faith. Deborah, a woman like no other, demonstrated exactly what it means to have the heart of a warrior, and her story is one that calls us to action today.

Let's talk about courage, confidence, and commitment—the traits that not only define Deborah but that God calls each of us to embody. The world we live in today is no less full of challenges than the one Deborah faced. Our communities, our families, and our faith are under attack. But the battle isn't ours to fight alone. God is with us, and He's calling us to rise as warriors for His kingdom.

I. The Heart of a Warrior: Courage in the Face of Fear

When the Israelites were oppressed by Jabin, the king of Canaan, and Sisera, the commander of his army, Israel had been living under fear for twenty long years. The people were afraid to leave their homes. They were broken and discouraged. It was a time of war, and the enemy seemed unbeatable.

But God raised up Deborah, a woman with the heart of a warrior. When fear gripped the hearts of the people, Deborah stepped up. She didn't back down. She reminded the people of God's Word. She sent for Barak,

a leader who had forgotten what it meant to fight. And she called him to rise up and do what God had commanded him to do.

Here's what I want you to see: *Deborah's courage didn't come from the size of the enemy or the circumstances she faced.* Her courage came from knowing the Lord's power and faithfulness. She knew the fight was already fixed. She didn't fear the enemy's strength. She feared only failing to trust in God's victory.

We need women like Deborah today. Women who won't be silenced by fear but will boldly proclaim God's promises. Women who won't back down when they see their children, families, and communities being overtaken by the enemy. God has equipped you to rise and lead with courage. It's time to step out of the shadows of fear and embrace your calling.

II. A Warrior's Confidence: Standing Firm in God's Word

Barak's response to Deborah's call was a hesitant one. He said, "If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!" He was unsure. His confidence had been shaken by years of oppression and fear.

But Deborah, with unwavering confidence, responded, "I will surely go with you; nevertheless, there will be no glory for you in the journey you are taking, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman."

Deborah didn't need the glory. She knew that the battle was never about her—it was about God's glory and His victory. And that's the key: *Confidence in God isn't about your abilities or your strength. It's*

about knowing that God is with you, that His promises are true, and that His victory is already secured.

When the world tells you to shrink back, you can stand firm because you know the truth: God is always with you. He equips you. He empowers you. And when you stand on His Word, you can be confident that you will walk in His victory.

III. A Warrior's Commitment: Doing What God Calls You To Do

Deborah wasn't just courageous and confident—she was also committed. When the time came, she told Barak, “Up! For this is the day in which the Lord has delivered Sisera into your hand. Has not the Lord gone out before you?”

Deborah's commitment to God and His people was unshakable. She didn't just give instructions; she led by example. She didn't sit in a comfortable place waiting for others to act. She got up, went with Barak, and led her people in battle.

She knew that her commitment wasn't just to a cause—it was to the Lord. She was willing to go wherever He called her to go, to do whatever He asked her to do, no matter the cost. And that's what it means to be a warrior. It's not about your own glory, comfort, or recognition. It's about obeying God's call, no matter where it leads you.

5 Best Practices for Women Leading in the World for Christ

1. **Embrace Courage:** Stand firm in the face of fear. When the world tries to intimidate or silence you, remember that God has

equipped you for such a time as this. Be bold in proclaiming His truth.

2. **Lead with Confidence:** Your confidence isn't in your own strength, but in the power of God. Know that He has called you, equipped you, and is walking with you every step of the way.
3. **Commit to God's Will:** Like Deborah, be committed to God's plan, no matter the cost. Your obedience to Him will bring about His victory.
4. **Encourage Others:** Be a source of courage and strength for those around you. Just as Deborah encouraged Barak, remind others of God's promises and the victory He has already secured.
5. **Be Willing to Fight:** The battle is real, and the enemy is relentless. But God has already promised victory. Be willing to step into the fight, not with fear, but with the confidence that God has already won the war.

Conclusion:

Deborah's story is a call for every woman to rise up and be the warrior God has called you to be. You may not wear armor or carry a sword, but you have something far greater—God's Spirit and His Word. Stand tall, be bold, and fight for His kingdom. The battle is His, but He's inviting you to be a part of His victory. Let's go and claim the victory He's already promised!

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Hello, friend!

We're Rev. Dr. Angulus D. Wilson and Sharon Wilson—and we're thrilled that you've joined us on this journey. Writing this book has been a labor of love, prayer, and reflection, drawing from over three decades of walking with Jesus and serving His people together.

Our story isn't just about two individuals—it's about a partnership forged in faith, purpose, and a shared passion for the Gospel. For 34 years, we've been side-by-side in ministry: preaching, teaching, discipling, planting churches, raising a family, and pouring into the next generation of leaders across the globe.

Angulus began preaching in 1991, and that call has taken him from street corners to sanctuaries, from seminary classrooms to university chapels. He currently serves as the Senior Chaplain at Wheaton College, shepherding students, staff, and faculty toward a deeper walk with Christ. He holds degrees from Fresno Pacific University, Wheaton College, Birmingham Theological Seminary, Ecclesia University of Divinity, and Azusa Pacific University.

Sharon brings her own powerful anointing to this calling—she's a mother, author, international Bible teacher, speaker, professional nurse, and graduate of both Fresno Pacific University and the Angelos Biblical Institute. Her ministry has impacted lives from college campuses to international mission fields. She's served in four universities alongside

Angulus, discipling students, faculty, and staff with wisdom, grace, and a deep love for the Word of God.

Together, we've raised three incredible sons, traveled the world, and spent countless hours investing in the lives of others. Whether in the pulpit, a hospital hallway, a living room, or a student center—we show up with one mission: to make Jesus known and to encourage His people to live with purpose and power.

This book? It's not just pages and words—it's our shared testimony. It's filled with lessons we've learned, tears we've cried, prayers we've prayed, and joy we've experienced while following God through the mountains and the valleys. Every chapter comes from lived experience, not theory. And we wrote it with you in mind—leaders, servants, dreamers, and doers who are still saying “yes” to the call of Christ.

So here's our encouragement to you: Stay faithful. Stay grounded. Stay available. God doesn't need perfection—He's just looking for people who are willing to go where He leads and love like He loves.

Thanks for letting us walk a few pages with you. We're cheering you on as you go and grow in your own ministry journey.

With love, grace, and gratitude,

Rev. Dr. Angulus D. Wilson & Sharon Wilson

Servants of Christ. Partners in the Gospel. Friends of the Called.



**Rev. Dr. Angulus Wilson
& First Lady Sharon Wilson**