



MIGHTY WIDOWS

Jesus Redeems the Afflicted

Meeting Messiah – Women Changed by Jesus

Series Summary

- ♦ *Woman of Samaria – Jesus Rescues the Outcast*
- ♦ *Mighty Widows – Jesus Redeems the Afflicted*
- ♦ *Woman Taken in Adultery – Jesus Restores the Fallen*
- ♦ *Women that Followed – Jesus Rewards the Faithful*

Agenda

- ♦ **Anna the Prophetess** – looking for redemption
- ♦ **The Widow of Nain** – God visits His people
- ♦ **The Poor Widow** – total dedication

Key Question:

How can we deal with affliction?

Anna the Prophetess

“Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; and she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.” Lk. 2:36

Anna the Prophetess

“A Prophetess”

Ex. 15:20 Miriam the prophetess dances & sings to celebrate the salvation of Israel

Jg. 4:4, 5:1 Deborah the prophetess sang an epic song to celebrate when Israel was delivered

1 Ch. 25:1 The Temple Singers' role was to prophecy through music

1 Ch. 9:33 The Temple singers were on duty day and night.

Departed Not From the Temple

Psa. 23:6 “And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever”

Psa. 27:4 One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life...

Psa. 84:10 Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah.

Psa. 135:1–2 “Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the name of the LORD; praise him, O ye servants of the LORD. Ye that stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God...”

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People who don't depart from the Temple...

Enquire after God

Listen to God

Seek fellowship with God

See God's Beauty

Constantly praise God

Serve God

Watch and wait for God

Day & Night

Prayer Night & Day

1 Ki. 8:29,59 God's eyes see the temple night and day;

Es. 4:16 The Jews fasted night and day for their redemption

Ne. 1:6 Nehemiah asks for God's ears to be open day & night to prayer about Jerusalem

Psa. 22:3,8 Jesus cried to God day & night

1 Ti. 5:5 'Widows indeed' who are desolate but trust in God must continue in supplications and prayers night and Day.

Looking for Redemption

“Those who look for Redemption”

Lk. 2:25 – Simeon waited for the consolation of Israel

Mk. 15:43 – Joseph of Aramathea waited for the kingdom of God

Matt. 11:3 – John the Baptist asked if Jesus was the one who would come, or if he should look for someone else.

Lk 24:21 – Disciples thought Jesus would redeem Israel

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Looking for Redemption

Isa. 62:6–7,11–12

On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the LORD in remembrance, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth. Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, “Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.” And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.

The Widow of Nain

“And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people. Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.” Lk. 7:11–12

Two Processions

Procession of Life		Procession of Death	
Led by the Prince of Life	7:11 (Act. 3:15)	Led by a dead man	7:12
The only son of his Father	Joh. 3:16	The only son of his mother	7:12
Going into the city	7:11	Carried out of the city	7:12
With many of his disciples	7:11	Accompanied by his widowed mother	7:12-13
And much people	7:11	Followed by much people	7:12

Confrontation at the Gate

The Gates of the City	Ref.
“Thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies”	Gen. 22:17
“Through death he destroyed the power of death...”	Heb. 2:14–15
“The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death”	1Co. 15:26
“...that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”	Rev. 22:14

Weep Not

“Weep Not”

Jairus' Household –
Lk. 8:52

Mary Magdalene –
John 20:15

Thessalonians – 1
Thess. 4:13

Brought to life by the Voice

Creation	Jn. 1:1–4, Ge. 1; Psa 33:9
Jairus' Daughter	Lk. 8:54
Lazarus	Jn. 11:43
Spiritual Resurrection	Jn. 5:24–25
Physical Resurrection	Jn. 5:28–29; 1 Th. 4:16

Women Receive Their Dead to Life

“By faith... women received their dead raised to life again” **He. 11:35**

Widow of Zarephath	1 Ki. 17:23
Shunamite Woman	2 Ki. 4:36
Widow of Nain	Lk. 7:15
Jairus' Daughter's Mother	Lk. 8:51
Mary & Martha	Jn. 11
The Women that Followed	Mk. 16:9
Tabitha's Widow Friends	Ac. 9:41

God Visits His People

“And they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath **visited** his people.” **Lk. 7:16**

“Visited” – Thayer

G1980: ἐπισκέπτομαι (episkeptomai)

To look upon or after, to inspect, examine with the eyes

1a) in order to see how he is, i.e. to visit, go to see... the poor and afflicted, the sick

1b) to look upon in order to help or to benefit, to look after, have care for, provide for

1c) to look (about) for, look out (one to choose, employ, etc.)

“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To **visit** the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Ja. 1:27

The Poor Widow

“And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.”

Lk. 21:1–4

Context

The Daughter of Zion
welcomes her King...

Luke 19:28–40
(Matt. 21:4–5 Isa. 62:11,
Zech. 9:9)

...But he weeps
because she “did not
know the time of her
visitation.”

Lk. 19:41–44

Lk. 19:45–46

“And he went into the temple, and
began to cast out them that sold
therein, and them that bought;
saying unto them ‘It is written, **My
house is the house of prayer, but
ye have made it a den of
thieves.**’”

The Widow's Adversaries

Lk. 18:1–8 – Parable of the Persistent Widow

“There was a there was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary...

And shall not God avenge his own elect, **which cry day and night unto him**, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily.”

Who was the widow's adversary? Lk. 20:46–47

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The Pharisees & Scribes made the temple a den of thieves.

The Widows made it a house of prayer.

The Widow's Might

“Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than **all** they which have cast into the treasury: For **all** they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in **all** that she had, even **all** her living.” **Mk. 12:43–44**

The Scribe's Challenge

Mk. 12:28–31 The first of **all** the commandments is, Hear O Israel,
The Lord our God is one Lord: and to love him with

All your heart

All your understanding

All your soul

All your strength

And to love your neighbor as yourself is more than **all** whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

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“Living” – Strong's

G979: βίος (Bios) “life, that is, (literally) the present state of existence; by implication the means of livelihood:”

1 Jn. 3:17 (ESV) “But if anyone has the world's goods (G979) and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?”

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It's not about how much you give — it's about how much you hold back.

2 Cor. 12:15 – Paul would very gladly spend and be spent for his brethren

Gen. 2:16–18 — Abraham did not withhold his only son

Rom. 8:32 – God did not spare his own son

LESSONS

Jesus Redeems the Afflicted

Work in God's House

Make your life revolve around God's house

Allow Jesus to use you to visit the afflicted

Love God with your all – hold nothing back

Never use ecclesial problems as an excuse not to give 100%

Look for Redemption

Pray day and night for God to redeem

Believe that Jesus is the Prince of Life, and he will prevail

