

AWARENESS.SKILLS.KNOWLEDGE.

Intergenerational Women's Ministry

St. Matthew AME Church

Reverend Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor|Teacher

30 April 2022

This month provides an overview of how her

Spiritual Gifts

Personality (Presence/Perspective)

Experiences (Positions/Protection)

Cares/Passions

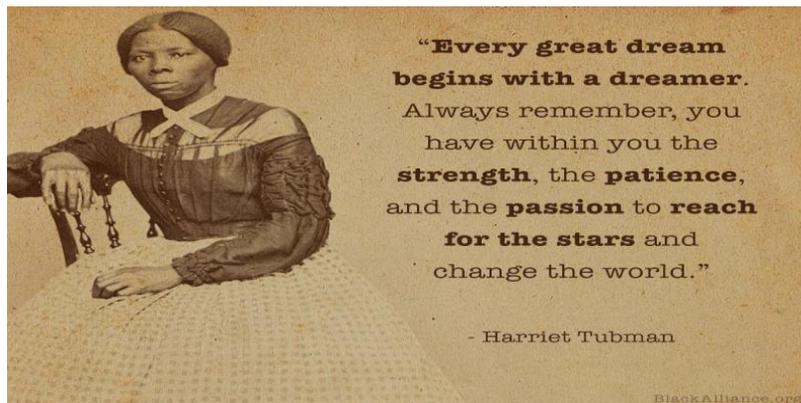
Interest

Abilities

Life Talents

contributes to her special God-given purpose; equipping her to **minister to all God's children.**

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St. Matthew AME Church 336 Oakwood Avenue Orange, NJ 07050
Reverend Leslie Watson Wilson, First Lady | Minister to Women
202-256-8531 Cell Lesliemariwilson316@gmail.com

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All Women of the Bible by Herbert Lockyer – Pilate's Wife

Pages 226-227

AWARENESS

“When he was set down on the judgment seat, his [Pilate's] wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.”

(Matt. 27:19)

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Name and Family Connection

- The Bible doesn't say but in the Book of Nicodemus she is identified as Claudia Procula, great granddaughter of the Emperor Augustus.
- Claudia means “lame”.

Appearance

- She was of a higher class and appears in brief in the Bible.
- What we know about her is told in 38 words.
- In a moment of crisis, she had a dream and begged her husband Pilate, the Roman Governor of Judea, not to condemn the prisoner before him.
- God directed that dream in order to add a striking testimony to the sinlessness of the One being tried for the truth He declared.
- Called Jesus a “just man” although she would never have met Him.

Assumptions

- She didn't need to see or meet Jesus Christ to have a sure knowledge of His goodness and mission.
- In her dream she recognized that she had been sent a divine message, and she had the faith to act upon that message and bear witness to her husband that she knew Jesus was a “just man”.
- Jesus made on her mind a contrast to what the religious leaders were seeking.
- She may be the Claudia Paul referenced in 2 Timothy 4:21.
- She eventually converted to Christianity.

Legacy

- We don't know what Pilate's wife saw in her dream or why she “suffered many things” because of Jesus, but it left a strong impression on her mind. In the ancient world dreams were taken seriously and could even, at times, be used as evidence in a court of law. Jesus's trial was held early in the morning and she, upon awakening, urgently sent her husband news of her dream.¹
- She sensed her solemn responsibility and made her plea.

¹ <https://www.womeninthescrptures.com/p/women-in-the-scriptures/new-testament/pontius-pilates-wife>

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- Her testimony of His innocence and goodness was based solely off the revelation and dream she had been given by God. Her faith in her dream allowed her to do what many of Christ's apostles and closest disciples didn't do– to stand up for Him and bear witness of His goodness in His time of need.²
- Greeks and Abyssinians made a saint of her.

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Food For Thought

- "...there came from the hand of [God](#) a warning to him, a warning which would forever make it clear that, if he condemned Jesus, it would be done voluntarily by his own guilty hands. Jesus must die by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, and yet it must be by wicked hands that he is crucified and slain; and hence Pilate must not [sin](#) in ignorance. A warning to Pilate came from his own wife concerning her morning's dream, a vision of mystery and terror, warning him not to touch that just person... There are times in most men's lives when, though they have been wrong, yet they have not quite been set on mischief, but have hesitated and deliberated concerning their way; and then God in great mercy has sent them a caution, and has set up a danger-signal bidding them to stop in their mad career before they plunged themselves finally into irretrievable ruin."³
- There are 21 stories about people receiving revelatory dreams in the Bible, but only one of these stories is about a woman who received revelation from God through a dream.
- Sometimes in the scriptures it is hard to see the influence that women have in shaping and directing in their nations and communities. Yet, in the story of Pilate's wife we see a woman using her influence and voice to intervene in a political trial and influence a decision. While Pilate was not successful in saving Jesus's life, he at least made an attempt to fulfill his wife's request. He believed and respected what she had told him.

MAY 21 – Jochebed

Exodus 1: 2:1-11; 6:20 + Numbers 26:59 + Hebrews 11:23

Pages 79-81

JUNE 25 – Widow With Two Mites

Mark 12:41-44 + Luke 21:1-4

Pages 227-228

JULY AND AUGUST RECESS

² <https://www.womeninthescrptures.com/p/women-in-the-scriptures/new-testament/pontius-pilates-wife>

³ <https://answersingenesis.org/education/spurgeon-sermons/1647-the-dream-of-pilates-wife/>

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SKILL

Step Eighteen: Revelation

Sometimes in the Bible, God communicated to people in dreams. Some of them were symbolic (like the dreams in [Daniel](#)), and some involved explicit instructions from God. Dreams may also break down the walls of pride, self-defense and open our ears that “allows us to see the true motives and conditions of our hearts giving us the opportunity to listen to God and enter a whole new place of healing.”⁴ In the Bible, 6 dreamers are kings, 1 dreamer a woman, 2 dreamers are named Joseph. Dreams in the Bible differ from visions (waking dreams) since they happen when sleeping (Job 33:15).

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- 1. Abimelech's warning – Genesis 20
- 2. Jacob's ladder – Genesis 28:12
- 3. Jacob's call home – Genesis 31:10-13
- 4. Laban's warning – Genesis 31:24
- 5 & 6. Joseph's grain and stars – Genesis 37:1-10
- 7. The cupbearer's grapes – Genesis 40:9-15
- 8. The baker's baskets – Genesis 40:16-19
- 9 & 10. Pharaoh's cows and grain – Genesis 41
- 11. The runaway barley loaf – Judges 7:13-14
- 12. Solomon's blank check – 1 Kings 3:5-15
- 13. Nebuchadnezzar's statue – Daniel 2
- 14. Nebuchadnezzar's tree – Daniel 4
- 15. Daniel's beasts – Daniel 7
- 16–20. Dreams surrounding Jesus' birth – Matthew 1:18-2:23
- 21. Pilate's wife's nightmare – Matthew 27:19

Questions to ponder: Are all sleeping dreams relevant? Are dreams from God clear? When thinking about dreams, consider James 1:5; 1:17.

⁴ <https://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/christianity/what-the-bible-really-says-about-dreams-and-visions.aspx>

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On writer says, “many claim to have had a dream or vision from God, but the Bible says “*when dreams increase and words grow many, there is vanity; but God is the one you must fear*” (Eccl 5:7), so fear of God and His Word trumps the dreams and visions anyone claims to have or has actually had. The Word of God is objective truth while dreams and visions are subjective and speculative, and why would God reveal His will in dreams and visions when His will is already revealed in Scripture? Any dream or vision should always be placed against the Word to see if it matches God’s purposes and will, and if it doesn’t, it was likely something they ate...or it could be from the Enemy.”

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Another writer says, “With the completion of the Bible, God does not have to use dreams and visions as much as He did before. That is not to say that He cannot or does not; God can communicate with us however He chooses. But when we have a decision to make, our first stop should always be the Bible, not a dream.”

But I leave you with this, “*17. Brothers and sisters, use for the good of men anything which comes in your way. Do not use only a sober argument and sound doctrine, but even if a dream has touched your heart, do not hesitate to repeat it where it may have effect. Any weapon may be used in this war. But see to it that you do seek the souls of men, all of you. You who are wives should be especially stirred up to this sacred work. Remember Pilate’s wife and think of her as affectionately giving the warning to her husband and go and do likewise. Never keep back from an ungodly husband the word which may convert him from the error of his ways. And you, dear children, you sisters, you of the gentler kind, **do not hesitate, in your own quiet way, to be heralds for Jesus wherever your lot is cast.** As for us all, let us take care that we use every occasion for repressing sin and creating holiness. Let us warn the ungodly at once; for perhaps the man to whom we are sent has not yet performed the fatal deed. Let us stand in the gap while yet there is time for repentance. Pilate is even now sitting on the judgment seat. Time is precious. Make haste!”⁵*

⁵ <https://answersingenesis.org/education/spurgeon-sermons/1647-the-dream-of-pilates-wife/>

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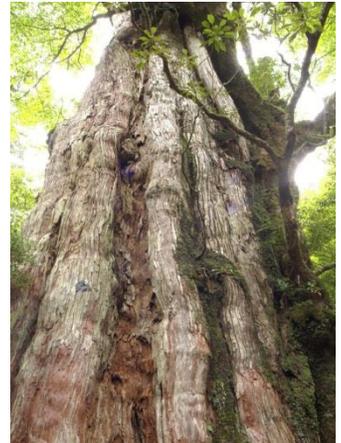
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KNOWLEDGE

Dear (insert your name) _____;

Today I engaged in a conversation revelation and how God can use me in my womanhood as an Ambassador of Christ and what that means as God moves me from where I am to where He wants me to be. Because of what I heard, shared, learned, witnessed, thought about, I want to remember most



Blessings Overflow,

1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

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