

AWARENESS.SKILLS.KNOWLEDGE.

Intergenerational Women's Ministry

St. Matthew AME Church

Reverend Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor|Teacher

25 September 2021

This month provides an overview of how her

Spiritual Gifts

Personality (Presence/Perspective)

Experiences (Positions/Protection)

Cares/Passions

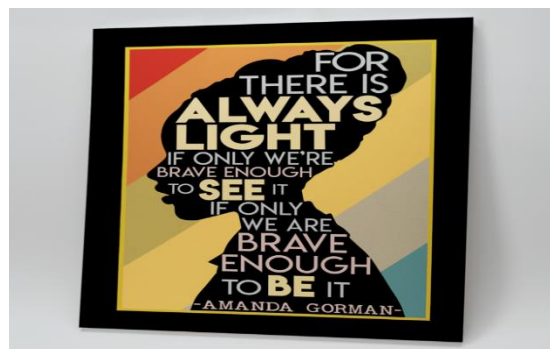
Interest

Abilities

Life Talents

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



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 – Leah

Pages 82-83

AWARENESS

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³¹ When the LORD saw that Leah was not loved, he enabled her to conceive, but Rachel remained childless. ³² Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Reuben,^[a] for she said, “It is because the LORD has seen my misery. Surely my husband will love me now.” Genesis 29:31-32 (NIV)

Name Meaning

- Wearing or faint from sickness.
- She was “tender eyed” (Genesis 29:16)

Family Connection

- Leah was related to Jacob by marriage, his mother Rebekah was the sister of Laban, Leah's father.
- Leah was the elder daughter.

The Deception

- After fleeing from God, Jacob reaches Haran and at Laban's well he meets his cousin Rachel, and it was love at first sight.
- Jacob enters into an agreement with his uncle Laban, Rachel's father, to work for 7 years so that Rachel could be his wife.
- After 7 years the custom was to take the bride to the bedchamber of her husband in silence and darkness so that it was only in the morning did Jacob learn it was Leah and not Rachel at his side.
- Laban condoned his unrighteous act by saying that the younger girl could not be married before the first-born.
- Whether Leah participated in the deceit to win Jacob from her beautiful sister is not known.

The Truth

- Leah knew that the love of her husband's heart was not her but Rachel.
- Leah genuinely loved Jacob and was true to him until he buried her.
- While Jacob loved Rachel there was no indication that she loved him in the same way.

The Legacy

- The names Leah gave her children testified to the miraculous faith God had planted in her heart.
- In spite of the polygamous marriage, she became the mother of six sons who were to become the representatives of six of the twelve tribes of Israel. Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah (verses 33–35), Issachar and Zebulun.
- In spite of how Leah was treated by her husband and sister, God blessed her richly in the form of motherhood.

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- Her third son, [Levi](#), became the father of the tribe of Israel that was chosen to serve the Lord in the tabernacle and later the temple.
- Her fourth son, [Judah](#), became the father of the line through which God carried out His covenant with Jacob's grandfather Abraham. God had promised that one day all people would be blessed through Abraham's seed ([Genesis 12:1-3](#); [22:17-18](#)). This blessing came in the form of Jesus Christ, who came as the sacrifice for the sin of the world ([John 3:16](#)). Jesus was of the tribe of Judah and therefore a descendant of Leah.

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The Lesson

- It seems that homely Leah was a person of deep-rooted piety and therefore better suited to become instrumental in carrying out the plans of Jehovah than her sister Rachel.
- Solemn choices should not be based upon external appearances.
- Rachel was beautiful and Jacob fell in love with her but it was Leah who bore Judah, through whose line the Savior came.
- "There are two kinds of beauty. That which God gives at birth which withers as a flower and that which God grants when by His grace men are born again. That kind of beauty never vanishes but blooms eternally.
- Rachel and Leah were sisters. Both were struggling with real issues—Rachel with infertility and Leah with a loveless marriage. But rather than support one another through genuinely difficult problems, they opposed one another. They competed for the attention of Jacob and became further entrenched in their own selfishness.

Reflections

- Would Leah's situation be considered unhealthy by today's standards?
- The Lord gave Leah "eternal satisfaction", what would that be, look like for you?
- What other take away is there from Leah's story that would be useful to share with younger generations?

October 23rd – Abigail

Pages 23-25

November 27th – Queen of Sheba

Pages 198-200

December 25th – No Session – Merry Christmas!

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SKILL

Step Thirteen: Purposefulness

“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” Psalm 51:10 (KJV)

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Two types of female relationships that we see in the Bible:

Christ-Centered Model of Friendship (Character of Christ)

- Ruth & Naomi ([Ruth 1](#)); Mary & Elizabeth ([Luke 1](#)); Women at the Cross & Resurrection ([Matthew 27-28](#)).
- These biblical women maximized their relationships for the Kingdom of God.
- Values: Encouragement, Perseverance, Faithfulness, Courage, Intimacy with one another, and Intimacy with God.
- Consequences: Ruth became an ancestor of Christ, Mary was the mother of Christ, and the women at the cross and resurrection became the original evangelists, the first people to share the good news of Christ while the disciples were still hiding in fear.

Competitive Model of Friendship (Character of the Enemy)

- Sarai and Hagar ([Genesis 16](#)); Rachel and Leah ([Genesis 30](#)); Euodia and Syntyche ([Philippians 4](#))
- Jealousy and competition had disastrous consequences.
- Values:
- Consequences: Selfishness, Division, Destruction

Talking Points:

- Female conflict is not neutral. Our relationships have power, so we cannot take them lightly.
- Our petty in-fighting and name-calling are tangibly destructive.
- God can use in female friendships love, encouragement and passion to do incredible things in His kingdom.
- We must pause and weigh the cost the next time we speak negatively about a sister, consider why you are doing it, whether it is consistent with the character of Christ, whether it is loving, and whether it will build up the church or divide it.
- We can disagree, most certainly, but watch carefully how you do it. God is not glorified by the ugliness, but Satan revels in it.

Based on “Women and Competition” article at <https://www.christianitytoday.com/women-leaders/2013/february/women-and-competition.html?paging=off>

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KNOWLEDGE

Dear (insert your name) _____;

Today I engaged in a conversation on female relationships 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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