

May 11 2024

God Honors the Faithful Woman (Mother's Day Message)

For me this day is challenging in that my mother's birthday was yesterday (May 10th) and she will have been gone for 17 years now. There were years my mother felt short changed because her birthday and Mother's day fell on the same day.

In addition to all the attributes a mother possesses, I remember two that stand out. The first is that she was an advocate for me. I was not a good student growing up. I was very introverted and didn't speak for myself. Each year my first two report cards would say I was below average in many of my subjects yet come the third and final report card I would miraculously move into the average categories and thus "pass" the grade and be promoted to the next one. This went on for several years until my fourth grade teacher called my mother for an interview and conveyed to her what others would not..."Stephen can't read" Each year I would be passed forward, not obtaining the skills that were taught at that grade level.

It was Mrs. Jones who "blew the whistle" It was at that time that my mother got me a tutor and what wasn't being done in school, she bore the expense to do so.

As I was concluding my sixth grade year, a year that was a transition year because in Canada elementary school ended at sixth grade and Junior high began as seventh, thus schools would feed into a larger learning environment, to which greater responsibility was expected of the student. My mother and tutor at the time felt I was not ready for that environment and believed I should stay back a year for more preparation.

In taking up this "battle" my mother would confront the Principal of the school. The move to keep me back was not seen with any enthusiastic support in that I would find out later in life from my mother that it was seen as a "black mark" against the school I don't know what sort of repercussions there would be and would never truly know. What was important to my mother was being properly educated and prepared for the next step. There were only two people who advocated for me and what was needed, My Mother and my tutor who knew where I was in my scholar abilities.

So, my mother was my advocate. In her taking a stand, doing as she would later tell me...digging her heels in and choosing her battle, led to the opportunity of going to college when we moved to the US. She was basically on her own, in that she would challenge the Principal, my sixth grade teacher and even my father. They all thought it would do irreparable harm to my psyche. They were not correct in that it was a challenge at first but also the grade behind me was where my friends were so I was actually going to be with many of my friends. There would be some challenges when I went off to seventh grade the following year, yet all in all it was my mother's advocacy that I will always remember and

cherish, in being a moment in my life that is where I would come to know her motherly attribute of protecting her child and giving what was needed to be so very important for the rest of my life and thus succeeding.

The other memory that I have of my mother is her being my care giver. When I was 24, I was diagnosed with Cancer. I was going from my sophomore to junior year of college. It was May and school had concluded. My junior year I would be entering the thrust of my major (accounting and finance). I went down to get the mail one day and walked back up our hilly driveway that I was out of breath. It was odd because I was in good condition, playing competitive racquetball for years. We scheduled an appointment with our family doctor for an exam. An xray was taken of my chest. When I got the results back there was a massive spot pressing against my lungs. It would turn out to be my thymus gland, a gland I had not heard about yet would come to be know quite well. A gland that is part of the lymph system that after a biopsy of it would reveal my diagnosis – Hodgkins disease. A cancer of the lymph system.

The protocol for treating this disease was quite successful and with it being caught early, being classified as stage 2, there was great optimism that the disease would be eradicated. It would be during this 7 months of treatment many things would transpire, having to leave school, various hiccups in treatment and my response, a bout of a drug induced depression. All in all the one who was beside me the entire time was my mother. We were “joined at the hip” for that time. Seven months of treatment, therapy and support groups. I won't bore you with a moment by moment account, yet it was an impactful time for me. Much of what I experienced would form my character, outlook and beliefs for some time. It was a time where God was not in my life yet.

Thus, as we honor women today, this is honoring my mother for what she did, what she sacrificed for her first born son. My mother was not devout but she did believe in God, but not in a religious way having been raised Catholic, it was most certainly ingrained in her.

Pro 31:30 ♀ Charm can lie, beauty can vanish, but a woman who fears Adonai should be praised.

God honors the faithful woman. A woman who will...

Pro 3:5 Trust in Adonai with all your heart; do not rely on your own understanding.

Pro 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge him; then he will level your paths.

One aspect found in Proverbs 31 and identified as the Proverbs 31 woman. Many see this as an unrealistic standard for any woman to attain, yet I see it as what one is to aspire in becoming. A pursuit within a pursuit of Adonai.

The woman who follows the will of God, ultimately pursuing him.

Heb 11:6 And without trusting, it is impossible to be well pleasing to God, because whoever approaches him must trust that he does exist and that he becomes a Rewarder to those who seek him out.

We read of many woman in Scripture. Some were righteous and sought Adonai, feared Him, revered Him, while others reviled Him and were wicked and evil in His sight.

They are both mentioned in His word yet not for the same reasons.

Those that were wicked and evil in his site, The Jezebels are there as a warning of how not to be.

Yet the women who fear and revere Him, ultimately pursuing Him and his Ways are honored.

Within the Line of Messiah are four women, not of Jewish descent but formative in their time as it would pertain to Adonai. Ultimately, pursuing His purpose without even knowing what the true impact would be...

We read of Tamar, the daughter-in-law of Y'hudah.

He had three sons and she would marry his eldest Er. Er would die as a result of doing that which was evil from the perspective of Adonai...

Gen 38:7 But `Er, Y'hudah's firstborn, was evil from Adonai's perspective, so Adonai killed him.

Before the Leverite requirement were revealed in Torah that the brother of a deceased brother was to be the kinsman redeemer and through relations with the wife of his deceased brother would provide an heir that would bear the name of the deceased. Found in Deuteronomy 25...

Deu 25:5 "If brothers live together, and one of them dies childless, his widow is not to marry someone unrelated to him; her husband's brother is to go to her and perform the duty of a brother-in-law by marrying her.

Deu 25:6 The first child she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, so that his name will not be eliminated from Isra'el.

Deu 25:7 If the man does not wish to marry his brother's widow, then his brother's widow is to go up to the gate, to the leaders, and say, 'My brother-in-law refuses to raise up for his brother a name in Isra'el; he will not perform the duty of a husband's brother for me.'

Deu 25:8 The leaders of his town are to summon him and speak to him. If, on appearing before them, he continues to say, 'I don't want to marry her,'

Deu 25:9 then his brother's widow is to approach him in the presence of the leaders, pull his sandal off his foot, spit in his face and say, 'This is what is done to the man who refuses to build up his brother's family.'

Deu 25:10 From that time on, his family is to be known in Isra'el as 'the family of the man who had his sandal pulled off.'

Er would die and Y'hudah instructed his second son...

Gen 38:8 Y'hudah said to Onan, "Go and sleep with your brother's wife—perform the duty of a husband's brother to her, and preserve your brother's line of descent."

Gen 38:9 However, Onan knew that the child would not count as his; so whenever he had intercourse with his brother's wife, he spilled the semen on the ground, so as not to give his brother offspring.

Gen 38:10 What he did was evil from Adonai's perspective, so he killed him too.

His first two sons dead by the hand of Adonai.

Adonai knew who Tamar was and her role. Y'hudah didn't realize the enormity. It was hidden to him, yet Tamar continued to pursue Adonai.

Gen 38:11 Then Y'hudah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, "Stay a widow in your father's house until my son Shelah grows up"; for he thought, "I don't want him to die too, like his brothers." So Tamar went and lived at home with her father.

She waited and waited...

Gen 38:12 In due time, Shua's daughter, the wife of Y'hudah, died. After Y'hudah had been comforted, he went up to be with his sheep-shearers in Timnah, he and his friend Hirah the `Adulami.

She continued to wait for Y'hudah's third son Shelah. Yet time would pass.

Gen 38:13 Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law has gone up to Timnah to shear his sheep."

Gen 38:14 So she took off her widow's clothes, completely covered her face with her veil, and sat at the entrance to `Einayim, which is on the way to Timnah. For she saw that Shelah had grown up, but she still was not being given to him as his

wife.

Gen 38:15 When Y'hudah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, because she had covered her face.

Gen 38:16 So he went over to her where she was sitting and said, not realizing that she was his daughter-in-law, "Come, let me sleep with you." She answered, "What will you pay to sleep with me?"

Time would pass and Y'hudah would be informed of his daughter-in-law's actions...

Gen 38:24 About three months later Y'hudah was told, "Tamar your daughter-in-law has been acting like a whore; moreover, she is pregnant as a result of her prostitution." Y'hudah said, "Bring her out, and let her be burned alive!"

The perception in that moment was what was seen, not what was being pursued. A very human response yet who was being more zealous for Adonai?

Y'hudah

or

Tamar?

There was a promise given by Adonai to Y'hudah...

Gen 49:8 "Y'hudah, your brothers will acknowledge you, your hand will be on the neck of your enemies, your father's sons will bow down before you.

Gen 49:9 Y'hudah is a lion's cub; my son, you stand over the prey. He crouches down and stretches like a lion; like a lioness, who dares to provoke him?

Gen 49:10 The scepter will not pass from Y'hudah, nor the ruler's staff from between his legs, until he comes to whom [*obedience*] belongs; [*or: until Shiloh comes*] and it is he whom the peoples will obey.

Not yet revealed to him through the blessing of his father Ya'akov, yet known by Adonai.

Y'hudah was without an heir through one of his children and he did not give his third son to Tamar to continue the lineage of his name within Israel.

So what happened?

Gen 38:25 When she was brought out, she sent this message to her father-in-law: "I am pregnant by the man to whom these things belong. Determine, I beg you, whose these are—the signet, the cords and the staff."

Gen 38:26 Then Y'hudah acknowledged owning them. He said, "She is more righteous than I, because I didn't let her become the wife of my son Shelah." And he never slept with her again.

Gen 38:27 When she went into labor, it became evident that she was going to have twins.

Gen 38:28 As she was in labor, one of them put out his hand; and the midwife took his hand and tied a scarlet thread on it, saying, "This one came out first."

Gen 38:29 But then he withdrew his hand, and his brother came out; so she said, "How did you manage to break out first?" Therefore he was named Peretz [*breaking out*].

Gen 38:30 Then out came his brother, with the scarlet thread on his hand, and he was given the name Zerach [*scarlet*].

Adonai knew what needed to happen.

Y'hudah would be the one who was to extend the lineage of Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya'akov directly, not through His sons.

It would be Tamar who would be the one who would interceed and bring forth and heir a descendant.

What did she know?

How would she come to know it?

I am reminded of Yeshua's interaction with Kefa and the final response to him by Yeshua...

Mat 16:13 When Yeshua came into the territory around Caesarea Philippi, he asked his talmidim, "Who are people saying the Son of Man is?"

Mat 16:14 They said, "Well, some say Yochanan the Immerser, others Eliyahu, still others Yirmeyahu or one of the prophets."

Mat 16:15 "But you," he said to them, "who do you say I am?"

Mat 16:16 Shim`on Kefa answered, "You are the Mashiach, the Son of the living God."

Mat 16:17 "Shim`on Bar-Yochanan," Yeshua said to him, **"how blessed you are! For no human being revealed this to you, no, it was my Father in heaven.**

What did Adonai reveal to Tamar that she would continue her pursuit of Y'hudah and ultimately become pregnant with an heir?

Even Y'hudah did not know the scope of what his lineage would become for Ya'akov had not yet spoken his blessing over his son.

We can understand others through Tamar.

Others saw her as a whore, having been betrothed and now pregnant. Yet, it was through her actions that she did what was right in the sight of Adonai.

She was the faithful one here.

As such Adonai honored her.

Mat 1:1 This is the genealogy of Yeshua the Messiah, son of David, son of Avraham:

Mat 1:2 Avraham was the father of Yitz'chak, Yitz'chak was the father of Ya`akov, Ya`akov was the father of Y'hudah and his brothers,

Mat 1:3 Y'hudah was the father of Peretz and Zerach (their mother was Tamar), Peretz was the father of Hetzron, Hetzron was the father of Ram,

A woman of non-Jewish descent brought into the lineage of Messiah through her righteous action of pursuing an heir for her father-in-law Y'hudah.

She appeared pregnant and it was not known who the father was at first. A type and shadow of Miryam, the mother of Yeshua who would become pregnant whereby the father was not known at the time.

Adonai would weed out the evil within the blood line of Messiah hence Y'hudah's two sons were killed by Adonai for their evil.

Ultimately honoring Tamar as pursuing that which she could not fully comprehend, yet it is my opinion the Ruach was guiding her in her pursuits.

Notice that Y'hudah was a widower and Tamar a widow. Hence both have been released from their previous marriages by death. Though she was promised Y'hudah's third son, he never honored nor followed through on what he had promised. So Tamar pursued Y'hudah in that the line had to flow through him if he would not give her Shelah.

Women of righteousness, doing that which is right from the perspective of Adonai includes many but within the lineage of Messiah there are four.

Tamar

Rachav

Ruthlessly

Bat Shevah

all leading up to Miryam...

Luk 1:26 In the sixth month, the angel Gavri'el was sent by God to a city in the Galil called Natzeret,

Luk 1:27 to a virgin engaged to a man named Yosef, of the house of David; the virgin's name was Miryam.

Luk 1:28 Approaching her, the angel said, "Shalom, favored lady! Adonai is with you!"

Luk 1:29 She was deeply troubled by his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

Luk 1:30 The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Miryam, for you have found favor with God.

Luk 1:31 Look! You will become pregnant, you will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Yeshua.

Luk 1:32 He will be great, he will be called Son of Ha` Elyon. Adonai, God, will give him the throne of his forefather David;

Luk 1:33 and he will rule the House of Ya`akov forever—there will be no end to his Kingdom."

Luk 1:34 "How can this be," asked Miryam of the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

Luk 1:35 The angel answered her, "The Ruach HaKodesh will come over you, the power of Ha` Elyon will cover you. Therefore the holy child born to you will be

called the Son of God.

Luk 1:36 "You have a relative, Elisheva, who is an old woman; and everyone says she is barren. But she has conceived a son and is six months pregnant!

Luk 1:37 For with God, nothing is impossible."

Luk 1:38 Miryam said, "I am the servant of Adonai; may it happen to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Be faithful in all your pursuits and righteous in all your ways towards Him.

Tamar... Rachav ... Rut ... the wife of Uriyah (Bat-sheva)... **Miryam.** Women, especially those born Gentiles, were rarely included in biblical genealogies. The first four were Gentile women whom God honored by including them among the recorded ancestors of Yeshua the Jewish Messiah-through whom Gentiles, women and slaves are saved equally with Jews, men and free.