



**. . . our daughters will be like
pillars carved to adorn a palace.**

— Psalm 144:12b



LESSON 1



The **True** Woman's Purpose

LESSON ONE

So what's the big deal?

Is there really a difference between God's way and the world's way?

Matthew 5:11-12

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:38-39

You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

Matthew 5:43-44

You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you . . .



Yes! There's a difference!



... our daughters will be like pillars carved to adorn a palace.

— Psalm 144:12b

The Bible talks about 2 kinds of Pillars:

1. Lot's wife became a pillar of salt

Genesis 19: 15-17 & 24-26

As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city." But he lingered. So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. And as they brought them out, one said, "Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away." . . .

Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven. And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

She became stopped, trapped where she was.

2. David writes in Psalm 144 about the pillars that gave grace, beauty and dignity to the palace as they supported the structure.

**What will I be?
A pillar of salt?
Or a pillar of grace,
beauty & dignity?**





Luke 17:28-33

Jesus said: Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all—so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed. On that day, let the one who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away, and likewise let the one who is in the field not turn back. Remember Lot's wife. Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it.

Mary's Story



The teenager was unmarried and pregnant. She had experienced incredible emotional highs and lows during the last several days. As she stood at the front door of an older woman relative, she wondered what her relative's reaction would be. She knew what rejection felt like. She remembered her fiancé's reaction and the events which caused him to change his mind about marrying her. Would her friend reject her too?

We don't know what emotions were swirling inside Mary as she raised her hand to knock on the door. But we do know that less than five minutes inside that door, she experienced a joy and confidence unexpected in one so young. Only a few moments in Elizabeth's presence and Mary burst into a magnificent song of praise to God, recorded for us in Luke 1:46-55. (*Spiritual Mothering*, p. 11)



Luke 1:26-45

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"

²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God."

³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."



1. What does Luke 1:28 tell us about Mary?

2. What was Mary's question after the angel's announcement (v. 34)?



3. What was the angel's answer (v. 35)?

4. The angel promised that God's _____ in her and His _____ over her would enable her to fulfill her calling.



5. What was Mary's response (v. 38)?

6. This shows us that her purpose was _____ and her authority to know how to glorify God was _____.



In defining herself as a servant, Mary relinquished control to God. Her purpose was not her convenience but God's glory.

The Big Story

The story of Mary is incredible, but her story is just one part of the big story—the gospel. The main event in Luke 1 is the Incarnation of God. God became flesh. He kept the promise that He made to Adam and Eve.

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

Galatians 4:4-5

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 1. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.

Q. 2. What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him?

A. The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him.





Servitude simplifies life.

Servitude is not easy.

Obedience is not a one-time decision.

Obedience is a life-time discipline.

**But it does bring a
simplicity to life because it settles
the issue of who is in control.**

(Spiritual Mothering, p. 33)

A True Woman's Prayer

Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain.

Turn my eyes away from worthless things;
preserve my life according to your word

— *(Psalm 119:36-37 NIV).*



V O C A B U L A R Y W O R D S

INCARNATION: *The Word, Jesus, became flesh.*

SOVEREIGN: *God is in control of all things.*

GRACE: *God's covenant love that cannot be earned.*



4 To Do

1. Tell your mother, grandmother or older friend what you learned in this lesson. Ask her to pray for you.
2. Memorize the answers to the Westminster Shorter Catechism questions 1 and 2.
3. Pray Psalm 119:36-37 every day.

Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain.

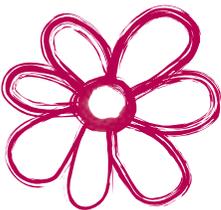
**Turn my eyes away from worthless things;
preserve my life according to your word**
(Psalm 119:36-37 NIV).



4. Read Luke 1:26-38 several times.

What do you learn about Jesus in vv. 31-33?

5. Read Wendulmuta's story on the next pages.
What was her purpose? What was her authority?



Wendelmuta's Story



When Martin Luther nailed his ninety-five theses to the church door in Wittenburg, Germany, in 1517, the spiritual darkness that had hovered over the world was punctured. The next few years were turbulent as the light of Biblical truth penetrated that darkness with greater and greater intensity.

The darkness resisted, but truth persisted:

The core of the whole movement was the conflict between the Word of God and the powers of darkness that could not abide it. In each country of Europe the starting-point of the Reformation was the release of the Bible from a dead language to its own language, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on those who read and received the wonderful message of free salvation.

The Reformation produced many heroes and heroines of faith.

In the Netherlands, Charles V imposed severe penalties on anyone who possessed a Bible or Reformed writings, preached Reformed doctrines, harbored such preachers, or attended their meetings. Hundreds were beheaded, burned, or drowned for refusing to comply with these laws. Wendelmuta Klaus, a widow and known Protestant from Monickendam in North Holland, was apprehended in 1527 . . . When told that unless she renounced her errors a dreadful death awaited her, she replied:

"If the power is given you from above, I am prepared to suffer."

"You do not fear death because you have never tasted it," they said.

"True, neither shall I taste it, for Christ has said, 'If any man keep my sayings he shall never see death.'"

After a series of questions, she was asked, "Who has taught you these opinions and how have you come by them?"

She replied, "The Lord who calls all men to Him: I am one of His sheep, therefore I hear His voice."

Many more questions were put to her, all of which she answered readily with Scripture quotations. Her examiners were enraged at her calmness and sent her back to prison. She was visited by monks, priests, women, and even relatives, all exhorting her to give in to the higher authority. One noble lady visiting her said, "Dear mother, can you not think as you please and be silent? Why should you die?"

"Ah!" she answered, "You know not what you say. It is written, 'With the heart we believe to righteousness, with the tongue we confess to salvation.'

**"I cannot be silent, dear sister,
I cannot be silent." And the
words of Wendelmuta Klaus
continue to be heard.**

"I am afraid," said the lady, "that they will put you to death."

"If tomorrow they burn me or put me in a sack and drown me, to me it is a matter of indifference," said Wendelmuta. "If such be the Lord's appointment it must come to pass; not otherwise. It is my purpose to cleave to the Lord."

She was brought the next day before the council . . . and after another short examination was condemned to death. . . From the council hall she was led out to a scaffold, strangled, and then burnt.

(By Design, pp. 7-8. The source for this story was Sketches of the Women of Christendom.)