



Remember and thank

Think about women in your life who have guided and influenced your faith. Thank God for their work and if possible, send them a note of appreciation.

cannot be adequately addressed here, many scholars believe that Paul was addressing specific situations in those congregations. In Corinth, the problem was disorderly worship and in Ephesus where Timothy was ministering, there was likely false teaching related to that city's worship of the female goddess, Artemis. However we interpret these texts, it is important to remember the many positive ways in which the early church included and affirmed women, and indeed how remarkable this was in that time and culture.

—Linda Gehman Peachey

How do you understand Paul's actions and words in relation to women?



Called by the Spirit

URSULA JOST AND BARBARA REBSTOCK were two influential leaders in the Anabaptist congregations in Strasbourg. Both were prophets and had a deep impact on Melchior Hoffman, the catalyst for Anabaptism in the Netherlands and Friesland.

Like others in these congregations, Hoffman quoted Joel 2:28-29 (Acts 2:17-18): "Such a time is now at hand as was in the time of the apostles, when God is pouring out his Holy Spirit on all flesh, and the sons and daughters prophesy." Hoffman saw women's prophesying as connected with the new thing that God was beginning to do in history. He wrote in his foreword to Ursula Jost's prophetic visions that, just as God had given revelations in the past through the prophets, and also through Jesus Christ, and through the Apostle John and, indeed, to all God's servants, so now the divine counsel is being revealed through this woman who is a lover of God.... When a new thing was coming to pass, it should be no surprise that God gave prophetic visions to a woman, who through these prophecies, was authorized to teach others about the power of God.

*Where do you see the Holy Spirit at work among women and men today?
What "new things" are coming to pass?*

FROM C. ARNOLD SNYDER AND LINDA A. HUEBERT HECHT. *PROFILES OF ANABAPTIST WOMEN*, WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1996, PP. 273-280. USED BY PERMISSION.

TWO WOMEN who illustrate Jesus' respect and appreciation for the worth of women are the woman at the Samaritan well and Mary Magdalene. These two women wipe out everyone of the "Yes but" put-downs aimed at women ministers. Look at what took place between them and our Lord. Jesus gave these two women two of the most important messages he had to give, and he sent them off to tell, to repeat the message of Christ, to preach the gospel of Christ.

The woman at the Samaritan well was the first person Jesus told he was the Messiah. He had been traveling for three years with the disciples, but he hadn't told them. After he told her, this woman who was rejected by her community had the courage to go back into that commu-

Noteworthy Disciples

nity to round up the people, to convince them to come and meet Jesus. Her preaching was effective. She got results. Jesus stayed several days in that village. Many believed.

Mary Magdalene was the first person Jesus appeared to as the risen Christ. Peter and John had both been to the empty tomb, but Jesus did not appear to them. It was to Mary he came, giving her the message that, indeed, he had risen. He gave her the message and sent her off to tell others. He sent her off to preach the good news.

—Wanda L. Callahan

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