## Women Equal - No Buts

### Powered by the same Source

Shirley Taylor February 6, 2015 El Buen Pastor Baptist Church

Thank you all so much for inviting me to speak with you. I am happy to be here. You have chosen the right thing to come out tonight.

My name is Shirley Taylor and I call myself the street evangelist for women's equality.

Last week I went to an office to do business. I had been there before. I had talked about women's equality with Pam, the manager. So last week I was back and we talked about women's equality. I gave her my card which says "Shirley Taylor, street evangelist." She said, "You need to meet my cousin. She has a Street Evangelist ministry in Houston where she feeds the homeless."

I leaned over to her and put my hands on her hands and looked into her face. I said, "My ministry is not to the homeless, it is to people like you. In offices, at the grocery story, the library, while buying a blouse at J C Penneys." I told her that God has called people to minister to the homeless, but that I am not one of those people.

Many years ago my son went off to a Baptist College. He called home one day and said that he wanted to be a minister to the elderly. He asked me to call the pastor of our little church to see how he could become a minister. I called our pastor and he said that he would take it to the deacons and get him licensed. With that one phone call, my son was licensed to preach.

What if it had been a daughter who wanted to be a minister?

What if it is **your** daughter who is called to be a minister?

(Mary of Bethany)

In Luke chapter 10 we read the story of Mary and Martha of Bethany. Jesus and his disciples arrived and Martha was busy in the kitchen. She looked around for Mary. She should be setting the table, and putting the ice in the glasses, but she was nowhere in sight.

Martha knew that Mary was in the living room listening to Jesus. Martha bunched up her apron in her hands and stormed in to tell Jesus to send Mary back to the kitchen to help her. What was Jesus going to do? Was he going to send Mary to the kitchen?

Both Mary and Martha knew that Jewish women did not study the Scriptures. In fact, the common knowledge of their day said, "Let the words of the Law be burned rather than committed to women. If a man teaches his daughter the Law, it is as though he taught her about sex."

Listen to what Jesus said back to Martha. Jesus said, "Martha, Martha, slow down. Mary has chosen what is better." All the men sitting there heard that. And Jesus says those same words to you and me today. With those words, Jesus not only allowed Mary to learn the Scripture, he was welcoming her into the presence and equality with those men.

You are mothers, and daughters, and many of you have been told what you cannot do. <u>I am</u> here to tell you what you can do. I am here to tell you that you are equal – no buts. You are equal before the Lord, and you are equal in your own home.

There are those who want you to believe that you cannot have any authority over a man. They tell you that you can't teach men or preach. They tell you that you must obey your husband. They tell you he was designed by God to be your leader.

For some reason, women have listened to those things. <u>Even though Jesus never said such a thing.</u> Jesus never told any woman that. I choose to listen to Jesus. The last thing these women needed was another law on marriage and housekeeping. They had enough things they couldn't do without Jesus putting one more burden on them.

There is a church in Conroe that posts on its website the roles of husbands and the roles of wives. He is to love her, listen to her and to inspire her. Pure romantic poetry!

You know what she is supposed to do? KEEP HOUSE! That is what she is supposed to do. I wonder if he is inspiring her while the vacuum cleaner is running? Or while she has her head bent down cleaning up the floor around the toilet.

When Don and I got married 53 years ago, we never heard such nonsense as men's roles and women's roles. My father helped my mother cook. Canned jams and jellies and tomatoes for the winter. He helped her wash clothes in the big black washpot. My mother helped him in the fields, picked cotton, and raised 8 kids.

They both worked hard. I thought all families were like that. I soon discovered that my husband did not know how to cook! During the past 53 years I have learned that is much more than household chores that make a marriage.

A woman wrote to me. We wrote back and forth a few times, each time she quoted more scriptures at me. Finally, she said, "One last reply and I do not care to hear from you again. (<u>I love hearing from women who get mad at me!</u>)

She said, "I am a woman – a very equal woman within my church and my home. My husband is the head of my home and I have no trouble submitting to his authority as he submits to Christ. I am loved! I am honored! I am respected!"

I wrote back to her and said, "Honey, as long as you stay in your pen, you will be respected. Get out, and the dogs start barking!"

I want you to get out of your pens! I want to hear the dogs barking! I want you to be free in Christ, in your church, and in your home.

(Gentile Woman)

Let me tell you another story about Jesus.

Jesus, for reasons unknown, decides to take off one day and go visit a Gentile village. When he gets there, a woman comes to him and asks him to heal her daughter. We don't know how old the daughter is. We don't know if this mother is married, or is widow, or what.

What we do know is that she saw an opportunity and she took it.

Her daughter was sick. You are mothers. You know what it is like to have a sick child and no medicine. But she had heard of the Jewish Messiah who could heal her daughter. She marched right up there to Jesus even though neither Jewish nor Gentile men would normally speak to women in public. At first Jesus said no. He said that he had been sent to the people of Israel. She pestered him. The disciples wanted to send her away, but Jesus wasn't ready to do that. He said something about giving the food to the dogs, and she told him that the dogs got to eat the same food that the people sitting at the table ate. She said there was more than enough food for Israel. She could be given some and nobody would miss it.

Jesus healed her daughter. Those who know the Bible better than I do agree that this means that Gentiles will no longer be separated from Israel. Jesus healed other Gentiles, but Bible commentaries do not give that the same significance to those encounters.

There is a common theme whenever women talk with Jesus. They argue! They talk back! They ask questions. But most importantly, they don't take 'no' for an answer.

A friend told me that one Sunday in his church, a little 11-year old girl asked her mother if she could hand out the registration books in church. Her mother said that she could not do that. She asked her mother why and the mother told her they would talk about it when they got home.

Somebody show me where it says in the Bible that girls can't hand out registration books! We start limiting women when they are still little girls.

This has got to stop. It is not what Jesus intended. It wasn't the daughter who asked for healing. It was her mother who asked for healing for her daughter.

That is what I want you to do. I want you to stand up and speak up! I want you to not give up. Don't take 'no' for answer. There is a healing that needs to take place for yourselves, and your daughters, your daughters-in-law, your sisters. You are equal! No buts!

#### (The Woman at the well)

Let's add another woman. The Woman at the well. Jesus gave her the same kind of news that he gave the Gentile woman. She was a Samaritan. Samaritans were poor Jewish cousins so to speak. Samaritans thought theirs was the true Jewish religion. They were expecting the Messiah, too. Jesus told this woman that he was the Messiah.

Jesus did not tell men this. This is big stuff! Particularly in a day where a woman could not even testify in court. This is incredibly important because these women's words are now testimonies to the whole world.

You know what happens when you tell women anything! She tells everybody. Jesus knew women were like that. Sure enough, she throws down her water jar, and takes off running down the street. She spreads the news that she had met the Messiah. She tells men. Decent women in town wouldn't have followed this woman. It was men she told, and it was men who believed her story, and it was men who went back to see this Messiah.

When the disciples got back to the well with food, Jesus wouldn't eat. He said that he was not hungry. Jesus said that his body and soul were 'filled' because he was doing his Father's business. There is no other story of Jesus being so touched and moved by anything else.

She, too, had chosen the 'right thing.'

(Mary at the Tomb)

Finally, we come to the woman who is mentioned each year at Easter, and then put away until the next year. We hear her voice "He is risen!" and we repeat back "He is risen, indeed!"

One time my pastor preached on the plan of salvation and he made this remarkable statement: "There was only one plan, and after Jesus was crucified, it was up to the disciples to tell everybody about his resurrection."

Well, not exactly, preacher. Jesus had another plan up his sleeve. "Tell a woman!"

You know, if I were a man, I would be ticked off. Women got all the good news!

- 1. Women could be taught the scripture
- 2. Jesus was the Messiah for Gentiles
- 3. Jesus was the Messiah the Samaritans were expecting
- 4. Jesus had risen from the dead.

They got the Big story. But men had a way of getting even. Shhhhhhh! They put a clamp on women's mouths.

(The Advocate - The Holy Spirit)

Mary at the tomb completes the picture of Jesus and women. But the story doesn't end there. This is where you come in. This is how I can assure you that Women are equal – No Buts.

Jesus promised an Advocate, the Holy Spirit. He told them to wait for the Holy Spirit.

Women, Jesus did not promise you a husband to lead you! He promised the Holy Spirit to lead you and advise you. Listen to what Jesus said.

John 14:16

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth.

Ladies, that Advocate is not your husband. It is the Holy Spirit. Jesus didn't mention husbands, and why would he? Nowhere does Jesus tell women that they are to be ruled or lead by their husbands. In fact, these 4 women had no husbands leading them.

"Jesus is our standard, and since Jesus did not commit women to husbands, or to males, and because Jesus did not deny women anything based on their being women, then we cannot in good stewardship of the gospel, do so either."

Women are Equal – No Buts: We have been powered by the same Source.

Thank you.

### **Shirley Taylor**

"Street Evangelist for Women's Equality"

Shirley Taylor was a ministry assistant with Baptist General Convention of Texas for almost 15 years. Shirley is the Founder of bWe Baptist Women for Equality. She was a featured speaker at the Seneca Falls 2 Christian Women's Rights Convention held in Orlando, Florida, in 2010. She helped organize the Christians for Biblical Equality Houston Conference (Houston Chapter) in April of 2012. Shirley is a blogger and advocates for full equality for Christian women to serve as pastors and deacons. She is a co-founder of Equality Junction. She was selected as a Visiting Author by the John Cooper School, December 2013. Shirley is the author of the companion book *Dethroning Male Headship*, published 2013. She and her husband live in Texas. She loves to hear from readers. Email her at shirleytaylor777@gmail.com.

# Women Equal – No Buts: Powered by the same Source

**Presented by Shirley Taylor** 

Femenil
El Buen Pastor Baptist Church, 24525 Clay Road, Katy TX 77493
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### Jesus allows Mary to sit with the men

Luke 10:38-42

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

## Jesus tells Gentile woman he is Messiah of the Gentiles also

Matthew 15:21-28

Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly."

Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."

He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said.

He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

"Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."

Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." **And her daughter was healed at that moment.** 

## Jesus tells Samaritan woman he is Messiah to the Samaritans

John 4:1-30

Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John— although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

Now he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

"I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

"Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

#### Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" They came out of the town and made their way toward him.

Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something."

But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about."

Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?"

"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

## Jesus reveals to Mary Magdalene that he is the resurrected Christ

#### John 20:11-18

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

<sup>&</sup>quot;They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." <sup>14</sup> At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary."

### The Holy Spirit comes equally to men and women

Acts 2:1-12

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.<sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

### Peter includes women as those who will prophesy

<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. <sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> "In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. <sup>7</sup> Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup> Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontusand Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

blood and fire and billows of smoke.

<sup>20</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. <sup>21</sup> And everyone who calls

on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

## Powered by the same Source (Acts 3, 4:1-18)

It was destined to be an extraordinary day at the temple. Peter had just healed an adult man who was crippled from the time he was a child. And now he and John were telling people about Jesus and his resurrection. The people assembled there were listening because of what they had seen.

Guards always get suspicious when a group of people are intently listening to one person speak, so they slipped closer to hear what was being said, and then reported back to their captain. As you can guess, the captain of the guards did not like what they were saying so he came over to have a little chat with them. They not only chatted, but the guard took them and put them in prison overnight.

"By what power are you doing these things?" they asked Peter and John the next day.

Peter looked them in the eye and said that it was by the power of Jesus Christ, who they had killed, but who had resurrected and now they were able to do this good deed in his name,.

Uh, oh.

If these unschooled and untrained men were able to do this, then what else could they do? After all, these men had been with Jesus.

So they talked, and they talked some more, and came up with the only thing they could think of: "in order that it may not be spread any further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to any man in this name."

Peter and John said: "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge."

Like Peter and John, we cannot stop speaking what we have seen and heard.

We are powered by the same Source. Like Peter we, too, have walked with Jesus. Peter and John couldn't quit telling about Jesus. They were told to stop, but they couldn't because they were just getting started. We, who believe in equality, can't quit now as the battle is not yet won for women's equality. We, too, have been with Jesus. Saved by the blood of the lamb and a witness to what he has done through his Word, and to how he has spoken to us.