

## Women in Leadership

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*"We bring to light the fact that women throughout the history of Christianity have been involved and contributed immensely to mission." Dr. Esther Mombo in a paper The Hidden Impact of Women in Mission at the African Institute of Contemporary Mission and Research.*

The contribution of women in leadership is rarely acknowledged. Women have made great contributions to the society from days immemorial. See Deborah the great Judge in Israel where it is recorded:

*"Village life in Israel ceased, ceased until I, Deborah, arose, arose a mother in Israel."*

Working with King Barak the world ascribed the victory to the hand of Deborah and a little known woman Jael:

*"Most blessed of women be Jael, .. most blessed of tent-dwelling women." a tribute by Deborah.*

The story of Joan of Arc is an example of faith and courage as she helped Charles VI of France defeat England.

*"The peasant girl who heard the voice of God; who aroused a spineless prince and cowed people, and freed her country from the conqueror's yoke: that was Joan of Arc."*

The betrayal by the King is what power-seeking politicians always do. That does not take away tributes accorded to her many centuries later.

*"We may accept and admire Joan as a sane and shrewd country girl of extraordinary strength of kind and hardihood of body. Everything she did was thoroughly calculated; and though the process was so rapid*

*that she was hardly conscious of it, and ascribed it all to her voices, she was a woman of policy and not of blind impulse."*

Elizabeth Fry described as: a docile wife, a mother, and because of her faith, did not fear to stand against the public opinion and fight faithfully for the cause of reformation of prison life.

*"The wretched responded to her call, her efforts made Parliament move in prison reform. The whole of Europe listened to her teaching, and prison reform took on a world-wide aspect. Not only prisoners, but beggars, the destitute, and all those less fortunate than herself, received help from this courageous meek woman who conquered the world by mercy."*

We take note of Florence Nightingale a gentle daughter from a wealthy family but sacrificed to pioneer clean and devoted attention to the sick.

"Modern nursing and hospital routine are the blessings which we owe to her actions and her ideals."

Many women have arisen and made significant contribution to the well being of human kind and leadership of nations. Just in West Africa, Liberia, the country by war and great suffering is going to have the first woman President in Africa.

**We learn great lessons from these women:**

They had **great faith** in supernatural being and they listened and obeyed.

They were **humble** and did not put the desire for fame rather it was the service to human kind.

They were **courageous** in the midst of all discouragement from the men around them. Their belief in their mission was such that they were willing to die for the cause.

They chose a **lifestyle of simplicity**; many were born in very humble environment and some gave up the wealth background to live simple lives.

They **valued the mother in them** and used the spirit of the mother to serve others with mercy.

They were women of **policy** and **principled**. They were ruled and guided by values they cherished in life.

They were women **devoted to serve** others and not self-seeking for honour and fame.

It is the attitude to selfless and sacrificial service that was able to break through situations during the time when men were helpless to move. In many of the situations the women take action where men have failed to demonstrate courage and service to their fellow men.

We live in a time where leadership of women is desired. This is not going to come through the cheap promotion of gender sensitivity. This leadership must be by women of character and high moral standards, women of faith, women of a backbone, women who are not going to ride on band wagons of men, women who will rise not because men have given way for them but women who will make a name because of a cause that will bring deliverance to human kind.

*StratServe Newsletter is a monthly inspirational challenge to leaders in leadership*

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