



10/22/25

I'm so thankful for scripture that shows how Jesus honored women! When you see Him call someone "Woman," just know... He's not being disrespectful. He's actually showing her respect. Jesus showed all women respect at a time when that was not the cool thing to do. We have a good God!!!

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Before I jump into this passage about how husbands and wives should treat each other, I need to keep something in mind. Peter was writing this letter to believers who were being kicked out of their homes and their communities because of their faith in Jesus. What Satan meant for evil, God meant for good. But even knowing that God means it for good can sometimes not be enough to protect us from struggling with it. In 1 Peter 1, Peter explained that these trials were tests of our faith that would result in praise and glory and honor from the Lord TO US as our faith is proven to be genuine through those trials. What can be more disheartening in life than a marriage that is struggling?

I know a lot of women who either married an unbeliever because they got emotionally attached in spite of knowing that scripture says not to be unequally yoked... or they weren't saved until after they were married. And then they experienced how hard that inequality of faith is. Some are even married to men who are believers but have wandered from the Lord. Marriage is hard when both people are walking with the Lord. It's way harder and lonelier when only one is walking with the Lord. That's why when I talk with women who are single and don't want to be alone, I encourage them not to settle... because it's way worse to be married and alone than it is to be single and alone.

God has answers for how we are to handle those difficult relationships. The only way we can is when we allow the Holy Spirit to continually fill us and when we put all our hope in God rather than men.

1 Peter 3:1-9 ~

Vs. 1-6 ~ This starts out with the word. "Likewise." It means, "in the same way." In the same way as what, or should I say... who? 1 Peter 2:21-23 tells me whose example to follow. In the same way that Jesus did not revile when He was reviled and did not threaten when He suffered... and did not commit sin or deceit even though sin and deceit were committed against Him... but He CONTINUED ENTRUSTING HIMSELF TO HIM WHO JUDGES JUSTLY... "Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, SO THAT even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct." That's HARD. The only way a woman can do that is by entrusting herself to the Lord as Jesus did.

What keeps me from entrusting myself to the Lord? I judge His faithfulness by my circumstances. I ignore what Jesus said in John 16:33, "In ME you have peace. In THIS WORLD, you have TROUBLE. But take heart, I have overcome the world." Instead, I expect Him to make my circumstances easier... but what He promises is to sustain me THROUGH the circumstances.

This is not saying, "Wives, never speak." In context, it's saying, "Wives, don't revile your husband even if he reviles you. Don't threaten your husband when you feel like he's making you suffer." This does not mean, "Lie down and play dead." And to be clear, it does not mean that if your husband is physically abusing you, you should just submit and take it. And it does not mean, lie for your husband and cover up his sin for him. It means, "When you do speak to him, even if you need to confront him, do it with gentleness and respect. But also, keep an eternal perspective... This is not just a horizontal relationship... You have a vertical relationship with the Lord who is helping you to be a missionary in your own home. Keep that in mind."

Why would it then say, "Do not let your adorning (your world) be external... but let your adorning (your world) be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit which in God's sight is very precious"? I'm not sure that I know all the reasons, but I do think it's possible that when we feel uncared for, we are tempted to think that if we just improved our appearance, things would be better. By improving our appearance, we might be able to find someone else who will appreciate us and then we say, "God would want me to be happy." Or, we might think, "If he finds me more attractive, maybe he'll treat me better." And then when that doesn't work, we give up and either get walked all over or fight back. God has a different answer. Hope in HIM.

"For this is how the holy women who HOPED IN GOD used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him Lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening." I used to ignore these two verses. I thought, "Sarah obeyed Abraham, and he did NOT protect her! I don't respect her for that." But that's actually the whole point! Sarah AND the HOLY women who HOPED IN GOD were in marriages where their husbands were not obeying the word!!! They had it RIGHT! Don't fight for yourself in your own strength. Hope in God! Entrust yourself to Him! The truth is, ABRAHAM did not protect Sarah, BUT GOD DID!!! God sees what we're going through when

our husbands are not obeying Him, and He is not good with it. But God says in Romans 12:19, "Never avenge yourselves but leave it to the wrath of God. For it is written, 'Vengeance is MINE. I will repay, says the Lord.'"

No matter where my husband is on the spectrum of obeying the word... whether he is an unbeliever, a backsliding believer, or a growing believer, he is still a sinner... just like I am still a sinner. My job is NOT to worship my husband or revile my husband or threaten him or to be harsh with him. But my responsibility and HOPE is to entrust myself to my Father in heaven who judges justly... to be respectful and pure in conduct, to have a gentle and quiet spirit... to care more about what is beautiful and precious to God than to anyone else... and to do good and not be frightened by what is frightening.

The ONLY way I will NOT be frightened by what is frightening is if I entrust my soul to the LORD, put all my hope in HIM, and let the Spirit fill me so that I am more and more holy. What is frightening to me is never frightening to God. He can handle it.

Vs. 7 ~ Peter gives one verse to husbands, but it is a very important verse. "Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered." Likewise, IN THE SAME WAY that Jesus didn't revile or threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to the Father, husbands... live with your wives with understanding... KNOW YOUR WIFE! This word for "understanding" is "gnosis." It means the husband is to study his wife and know her better than anyone else does. He's called to DWELL with her and understand that she is the "weaker vessel." She is not like the man. She can be hurt emotionally and physically. But don't let this make you think that she's inferior to you, husband. She is an heir with you of the grace of life. That makes her equal with you.

When the husband is NOT dwelling with his wife in a way that honors her and understands her, his prayers will be hindered. This is massive!!! Who is the One with all the authority and power and wisdom and knowledge? The LORD! Proverbs 28:9 says, "If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination." How often does someone get angry with God for unanswered prayer while refusing to obey Him... as though God were supposed to be our magic genie or personal Santa Clause? He won't bless prayers that are offered with disobedient hearts because saying yes would enable us to continue down a dangerous path. He loves us too much to say yes when we continue to say no to Him. He is our source of wisdom. Without abiding in Him, what we pray for will be foolish.

Vs. 8-9 ~ Now Peter speaks to everyone... servant, master, wife, husband... no matter who we are... "Finally, ALL OF YOU, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing." God's command is that we ALL are single-minded... with minds set on Christ. He wants us all to be sympathetic... compassionate... because that's who God is with us. He wants us to have tender hearts for each other... brotherly affection. And He wants us to be humble TOWARD EACH OTHER. Humility toward God is only

proven genuine when we are humble toward each other.

That's the positive side of how we should treat each other. That's the "Do this." Here's the "Don't do this" part. Don't repay evil for evil... cuz yes, we are all sinners... there are times we will be harmful with our words and actions. Don't retaliate. And don't insult others when they insult you. For... "We ALL stumble in many ways, and if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle his whole body as well" (James 3:2). None of us are perfect. Recognize that I am guilty of retaliation and insult just like everyone else. Don't keep making that wrong choice.

Remember Jesus. He was treated the worst of anyone, and He committed no sin or deceit. Follow His example. Do what He did. Instead of reviling and threatening, He blessed us. We are ALL called to bless as Jesus did, and we are given a promise... When we choose to bless even though others revile and hurt us, God blesses us. He blesses us in ways we won't expect... He blesses us with peace beyond understanding.

The biggest hurdle I have to overcome is this... Will I entrust myself to my faithful Father who judges justly and blesses my obedience? Will I hope in Him? Everything I do next is based on how I answer those questions from my heart. O Lord, please help me to put all my trust and hope in You. Let me never forget what Jesus did for me. Amen.