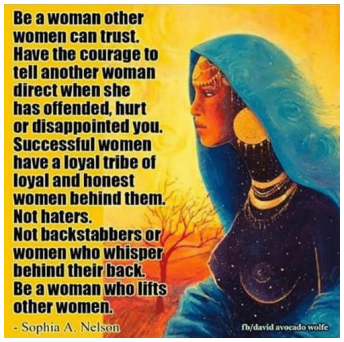
November 17, 2019, Sunday

Sunday for the Girl Child

Affirming the Worth of the Girl Child

OT Num.27:1-11 Psalm 71:1-12 Epistle Acts 21:7-14
Gospel Mark 5:35-43 Evening Gal.3:23-28 Ps.139:1-18

Almighty God, whose blessed Son in His earthly life blessed little children, we pray that those children who are victims of inequality and oppression may receive a new hope of life with Your tender touch. In particular we pray for the girls, that they may find justice, dignity, and love in the human community, that their lives may flower forth to bring fragrance in Your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. **Amen.**



A Lesson of Bravery !!
(Numbers 27: 1- 11)

The name *Zelophehad* means "*protection against fear.*" What protects us against fear? There's just one thing. Faith n courage.

The five daughters of Zelophehad requested that they be given their father's inheritance. Moses took this matter straight to God Almighty, the creator of the universe! The Lord declared: *"The daughters of Zelophehad are right." (v.6). Girls should also be given rights is a thought that God told Moses. The creator of the universe heard the plea of these women and declared them as right and gave this statute and rule for all time to Israel.* ***Then they were granted the inheritance of their Father.*** *Why? Because they had great faith n courage.*

Do women have this sort of faith and courage? Sometimes they are tempted to talk about their fears or complain about them rather than face them with faith -head on. They must not run from things that are hard -especially when they know they are doing what is right. Let's take strength from these women today and ask God to be used for change in this world!

Women in Christian Mission (Acts 21: 7- 14)

'Now this man had four virgin daughters' - Philip's daughters had never been married. Apparently they had been set apart by God as prophetesses. **Virgin** (*parthenos*) generally is used of a female who is beyond puberty but not married and still a virgin. In the first century Church, girls were also involved in the Christian Mission. This verse shows that women did occupy a prominent place in the ministry of the early church. It is interesting to note that from the last time Philip is mentioned in Acts 8, there is 20 years of silence. What was he doing those many years? We don't know for sure, but we can be quite definite that he was still evangelizing and he had been raising four daughters in a Christ-centered home who grew up to love Christ. The will of God for Philip was not only to win men to Christ

but to raise his girls under the sound of the gospel and win them to Christ. Raising children for Christ is one of the most important ministries in the world and to dodge this responsibility is a clear denial of the revealed will of God. (Acts 21:1-14 The Will of God).

Affirm the worth of the girls- the worth that the Bible gives (Mark 5: 35- 43) We see in Mark 5: 35-43, the dead daughter of the synagogue leader being raised. Jesus invited only the parents to the place where the child lay. If parents and Christ stay together any lifeless situation in children will receive life. Parents should lead children to the Lord. We can see in the Gospels and in the Acts of the Apostles many parents who are burdened by their weak and dead daughters approaching Jesus (Mark 5: 21-24, 35-43; Acts 9:36-43).

Like how Jesus took the dead girl by her hand, and raised her to life, and instructed to give her something to eat, even now girls who are weak and exploited due to various reasons are to be upheld by the care n protection, raised and given a new life by the life affirming word of Christ.

Jesus' gospel is a gospel of freedom, peace and protection. Gospel declares freedom to any oppressed society. We should affirm the worth of the girls- the worth that the Bible gives.

Like how Jesus said 'TalithaKoum' and raised the dead girl, today we should also be able to hold the hand and raise our girls who have been challenged due to many reasons. It is our duty to affirm the worth of girls- the worth that God has given. But due to many reasons their rights and protection are being challenged. We can see in the Bible that God through His son cared and strengthened the weak and the outcaste. Love that never showed any discrimination was manifested through Jesus Christ. In it there is no difference between male and female (Galatians 3: 28). A mentality to respect and accept the girls in our society should be achieved through proper meditation. Their talents are for the good of the society and a blessing to their family. But challenges for the girls still continue even at present. Right from being a foetus in their mother's womb to the grave they face challenges. Foeticide, infanticide, women trafficking, rape, dowry, domestic violence are a few to mention.

Each year crimes against women are steadily on the rise. We have reached an age when women have lost their security in homes and workplaces. The growth of media and the strides in internet, mobile phones and social media all pose a problem to the protection of the dignity of girls. It is here that we should meditate on a Biblical basis the concern that we should have specially for girl child.

Have a Blessed Sunday for the Girl Child!!