

MARANATHA FAITH ASSEMBLIES

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TEXT: "The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish tears it down with her own hands" (Proverbs 14:1)

THEME: WISE AND FOOLISH WOMEN

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INTRODUCTION: A woman is specially created by God to be a suitable helpmate to her husband. Today the role of women has not changed in as far as building families, or communities and nations. This, not only applies to women with husbands, but widows and single women as well.

Rev. Isaac Peter Oyako ministering to over two thousand women in Kenya

The design of a woman is tailored and naturally engraved with three qualities which make a woman, not only unique, but suitable for task of complementation and being a pivot in which every human endeavor rotates.

Women may be able to cope without men, but men definitely find it absolutely difficult to do without women. God, make a clear observation, "It is not good for a man to be alone....."

A woman and a man Compared:

Woman	Man
1. Intuition (Subjectivity). A	Objectivity (Reason based). A Man
woman is intuitively more	is reason oriented: Men generally
sensitive and emotionally less	are analytical. Their objectivity has
stable than a man. This has both	also both advantages and
disadvantages and disadvantages.	disadvantages. It is quite easy for
Women are easily excitable and	a man to miss the still small
could cause problems without	communication from the Holy
intending such as the case of	Spirit that a woman (Mark 2:6;
David and King Saul (1Samuel	But some of the scribes were sitting

18:6-8), It happened as they were coming, when David returned from killing the philistine, that the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tambourines, with joy and with musical instruments. The women sang as they played, and said, "Saul has slain his thousands" Then Saul became very angry, for this saying displeased him; and he said, they have ascribed to David ten thousands, but to me they have ascribed thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom (Luke 23:27-28) And following Him was a large crowd of people, and of women who were mourning and lamenting Him. **But Jesus turning to** them Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for me but weep for yourselves and for your children

2.Adaptability: A woman can more easily adopt a new environment and people than a man can (Ruth1:16-17) But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the Lord to me, and worse, if anything but death parts you and me

Mark 12:28 One of the scribes

there and reasoning in their hearts.

came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "what commandment is the foremost of all?"

When a woman's intuitive capacity is blended with man's analytical capacity, a better direction is the result.

But unfortunately, couples tend to pull roles instead of blending the two.

Rigidity: Abraham stuck to his cousin. Lot till God raised a circumstance to separate them, before God resumed His plans for Abraham (Genesis 12:1: Now the Lord said to Abraham, Go forth from your country, And from you relatives And from you father's house, To the land which I will show you; So Abram went forth as the Lord had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. (Genesis 13:14)The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Now, lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward,

3. Influential: A woman's A man commands and his power is

power is based more on influence **1Kings 11:4;** For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been.

(Genesis 3:6). When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her and he ate

A woman's influence can be both positive and negative.

A man commands and his power is based on wealth, wisdom, authority and physical strength (Jeremiah 9:23) Thus says the Lord, let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his mighty, let not a rich man boast of his riches;

Men find it difficult to detect the influence of women in their lives. This is true for both positive and negative influences.

A.A woman as a destroyer or a builder: Both God and Satan find a woman more handy than a man to accomplish their purposes. The woman can be used as a tool for destruction by the Satan, but God also uses a woman for positive influence, and source of support and encouragement. That is exactly what happened in the Garden of Eden, when the devil hijacked the establishment and nearly brought God's plan for man kind to ruins when the woman, not only after eating forbidden fruit, but also influenced her husband to eat the same. Thank God for His Love, to send His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ to correct the mess (*Entire human race was headed into doom in the lake of fire along side with Satan!*)

Foolish women and wise women have made devastating destructions and constructive developments respectively by use of influence. Because of intuition, which makes it easier for a woman to tap into the spiritual realm, the woman can be both dangerous and useful at the same time.

Jezebel, the wife of King Ahab of Israel, influenced Israel to massively defect from their true God and commit abominable acts by worship of Baal, an idol from a foreign nation. Israel as a nation and the family of King Ahab had to absorbed the wrath of God (1Kings 21:25). Surely there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do evil in the sight of the Lord, because Jezebel his wife incited him.

There are many other women in scripture, in past histories and even in contemporary times which influenced bad decisions and triggered unpleasant response from God or reprisal from fellow man.

A good example is a godly woman, Sarah, the wife of Abraham, who attempted to manipulate events and quicken God's promises. By donating her maid, Hagar to her husband, Sarah hoped to fulfill God's promise of heir to Abraham. This obviously never worked, because no one can help God. Instead she reaped dire consequences which she left with human race on to this day (Genesis 16:1-3). Now Sarai, Abram's wife had born him no children, and she had an Egyptian maid whose name was Hagar. SO Sarai said to Abram, Now behold, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Please go in to my maid; perhaps I will obtain children through her. And Abram listened to voice of Sarai. After had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Abram's wife Sarai took Hagar the Egyptian, her maid, and gave her to her husband Abram as his wife.

However, there are also examples of wise women in the Bible who did constructive work, not only to their immediate families but also the nation of Israel. Deborah, the judge was one of those women who did exploit in Israel. Israel had been brought quite low by the Canaanites King Jabin whose Commander was Sisera. No one was able to step in to rescue the situation, not even Barak, the commander of the armies of Israel. But a wise woman by name of Deborah, took her life in her hand

and rescued Israel (Judges 4:6-9; 14.) Now she sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-Naphali, and said to him, behold, the Lord, the God of Israel, has commanded, Go and march to mount Tabor, and take with you ten thousand men from the sons of Naphitali and from the son of Zebulun. Deborah said to Barak, "Arise! For this is the day in which the Lord has given Sisera into your hands; behold, the Lord has gone out before you." So Barak went out from mount Tabor with ten thousand men following him.

Just a few more examples of women of wisdom in the Bible who influenced events:

- direction to the Nation of Israel (2Kings 22:14). So Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Achbor ,Shaphan, and Asaiah went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe (now she lived in Jerusalem in the second quarter); and they spoke to her. Jeremiah and Zephaniah were sanctioned prophets for Judah at that time. It was a time of great repentance and revival in Israel. We do not know why God did not use the pillars of prophecy and divine revelation at that time to deliver His message to the nation of Israel in a critical time in the history of Israel, but chose Huldah, a woman.
- (ii) **Phoebe,** a deaconess was trusted by Apostle Paul to deliver an important epistle to the Romans. She was an outstanding deaconess with wisdom and maturity in the church of Cenchrea, neighboring Port City of Corinth where Paul wrote the letter (**Romans 16:1**) I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea
- **B.** The distinct Characteristic of a builder woman: Looking at the three women above and perhaps others wise women also, we can

derive basic characteristics of women of wisdom who, not only built their families, but also gave direction to their nations.

1. **Fear the Lord:** All the three women above, Deborah, Huldah and Phoebe feared, honored and served their God faithfully and effectively. The Lord gave them the authority, which was recognized beyond their family settings.

Deborah, was able, not only to rebuke the cowardice from a commander of army of Israel, but was able to command him with the voice of God Judges 4:14 Deborah said to Barak, "Arise! For this is the day in which the Lord has given Sisera into your hands; behold, the Lord has gone out before you." So Barak went out from mount Tabor with ten thousand men following him.

This was not a command of disrespect but a gentle rebuke for him to take his position to achieve God's purpose of deliverance to the nation of Israel.

Huldah, likewise was able to redirect the Kings envoy with authority with a message from God **2Kings 22:15.** She said to them, thus said the Lord God of Israel, tell the man who sent you to me.

Phoebe, on the other hand receives a wonderful recommendation from Apostle Paul to the church in Rome (Roman16:1-2). I commend to you our sister phoebe, who is a servant which is at Cenchrea; that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you for she herself has also been a helper of many and of myself as well.

The authority from God that a person wields is proportionate to the degree of holiness that person has achieved. It comes after intimacy and fellowship with God. It is a choice of an individual to allow God

make sanctification in his or her life (2Timothy 2:21). Therefore, if some one cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the master, prepared for a very good work.

It is a process that comes progressively though prayer, discipline and sacrifice. Gold in us can only be exposed through refinery though afflictions (Isaiah 48:10). In order not to cut you off; Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

Difficulties in life can be God given opportunity for us to draw closer to God so that He makes appropriate adjustments.

2. They are under authority (Submissive): The two great women, Deborah and Huldah were married, and the Bible mentions the names of their spouses. Not anything is known about Phoebe's marital status, but it is widely believed that she was probably a widow.

The two women were under the protection and direction of their husbands even as they executed national duties. They did not rebel nor despised their spouses because of their positions in national authority. Social status, position of authority and wealth does not exonerate a wife from the divine command to submit to her husband. A woman's submission to the husband is a voluntary choice, but also preeminent to her submission to the Lord and Savior. (Ephesians 5:22-24). Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, he himself being the savior of the body; But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

It is a voluntary choice for the glory of the Lord which has nothing to do with the husband's state of being good or bad. (1 Peter3:1-2). In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe you chaste and respectful behavior.

It is to render him what he deserves as a husband- to be worship (Psalms 45:11, Then the king will desire your beauty. Because he is your Lord, bow down to him.

1Peter 3:6). Just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him

Lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened with any fear.

It is a common and false phenomenon that a woman submits to her husband as long as she is dependent on him for survival. But as soon as she is able to stand alone, she breaks free from submission. This ought not to be seen in the church of Jesus Christ. world and even some so called Christian women, when she gets money or elevated position, she looks down upon the husband and commands him around against the teaching of the Bible (1 Timothy 2:12) But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.

The challenges encountered in a relationship, or in life, could be an opportunity to mature and produce the desirable fruit of kindness towards other people as well as knowing God if well utilized. A Christian woman should not be dismayed in hardships, most especially those economic related.

4. Virtuous (Proverbs 12:4) .A virtuous wife is the crown of he husband,

But she who shames him is like rottenness in his bones. To be virtuous is to

have high moral standard. Materialism is the common cause of marital unfaithfulness even among the Christians. This is in-rooted in dissatisfaction with the standards of life and craving for achieving a higher one through whatever means. (Hebrews 13:4-6). Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled, for fornicators and adulterers God will judge. Make sure that your character is free from love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you, so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME? Life does not consist of or valued in terms of possessions, but relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The secret is contentment and not comparison with others. (1Timothy 6:6-11). But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we can not take anything out of it either. If we have food and covering, with those we shall be contented. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pieced themselves with many grief.

When comparison sets in, the competition follows suit before destruction takes place. People who usually do comparisons are envious, malicious and bitter people who wish others bad.

(2Corinthians 10:12). For we are not hold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.

A virtuous woman comes along side her husband, and they both work to achieve what they desire. When two people set goals and harmoniously work towards them, it is impossible to fail.

(Ecclesiastes 4:9-12). Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor; For if either on them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up; furthermore, if two lie down together, they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone? And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly ton apart.

However, a foolish woman will put all the responsibility on the husband and nag him.

- 5. Woman of Excellence (Proverbs 31: 10-11) An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels, the heart of her husband trusts in her; And he will have no lack of gain. Excellence simply means outstandingly in good things. It is to have favor with God and fellow man. Excellence means wisdom, self control, and restraint. Excellence is portrayed in:
 - (i) Wisdom in communication, not quarrelsomeness.
 (2Timothy 2:24) The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged.
 Malicious gossips are quite a common characteristic of

an ordinary woman, but a woman of excellence is restrained in her speech. Her communication is always seasoned with Grace.

- (ii) Wisdom in responses, Not spontaneous. (James 1:19-20). This you know, my beloved brethren. But every one must be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.
- (iii) Carefulness in relationships, choice of friends. (1

 Corinthians 15:33) Do not be deceived: Bad company corrupts good morals
- 6. Prudent: The person showing wise care for the future is said to be prudent. In today's terminology, that person is considered developmental. A wise woman grows the home though careful planning, discipline and hard work. (Proverbs 31:16-19). She considers a field and buys it; from her earnings she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength and makes her arms strong. She senses that her gain is good; He lamp does not go out at night. She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and he hands grasp the spindle.

In every success in a man's life, there is an invisible hand of a woman. Every woman has radar, and has the capacity to drive her husband in any direction she wishes: A woman determines the future of her children. (Proverbs 1:8; 6:20.) Hear, my son, your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching; my son, observe the commandment of your father and do not forsake the teachings of your mother; A woman has the blue-print of the family development and determines the dignity of her husband. (Proverbs 31:23). Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the eldest of the land.

C. The Distinct Characteristics of a Destroyer Woman

In this section, we will also consider 5 characteristics of a foolish woman, and who is set to destroy things she may have built herself.

1. Being Contentious: A woman full of arguments and is highly controversial is considered to be contentious. She is always negative

and ready for a fight over very minute issues. She tussles for recognition at any cost. This is a symptom of low self esteem caused by difficult childhood or a negative incident in life that has not been dealt with.

- (i) It could be missed love
- (ii) Relationship failure
 Anything that has engraved a
 permanent mark in her life.

Women praying, repenting and rededicating themselves to the Lord

Such people are always suspicious and possessive and ever fighting (Proverbs 21:19; 27:15). It is better to live in a desert land than with a

contentious and vexing woman. A constant dripping on a day of steady rain and a contentious woman are alike;

Jezebel was one such a woman in the bible who destroyed the religious structure of Israel though worship of Baal, the cult of her people. Jezebel had no respect for any one. She was always fighting. She possessed, and directed King Ahab to evil only, nor did she give a damn even after an outstanding miracle occurred in which fire fell down from Heaven during the contest at Mount Carme: she still opted to destroy the icon of Israel's religion, Prophet Elijah. (1 Kings 19:1-2). Now Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, so may the gods do to me and even more, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time. A contentious woman destroys her husband's relationship with people, including his own people. By doing this, she closes doors for valuable contacts indirectly.

2. **Being Rebellious**: Being resistant to authority and not easily controlled is having a rebellious spirit. Example of a rebellious woman was queen Vashti. **(Esther 1:12).** But queen Vasti refused to come at the king's command delivered by the eunuchs. Then the king became very angry and his wrath burned within him. The queen embarrassed her husband publicly. Rebellious women do not mind, but embarrass whoever comes against their interests, their own husbands included. This was happening a lot in the Corinthian church, forcing Apostle Paul to enact public and family management order. **(1Corinthians 14:35).** If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for improper for a woman to speak in church.

A rebellious women defies God's delegated authority though her husband, and instead expects the husband to bow to her directive (Ephesians 5: 22-24). Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the savor of the body, But as church is the subject to Christ so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

This is part of the silent feuds or even blow-out struggles which, not only bring disgrace to name of the Lord, but hinders blessings and slows the family progress. Such family relations is a recipe for infidelity.

3.Being Odious: Being nasty, repulsive and unpleasant to people in a way of behavior is termed as being odious. (Proverbs 30:21-23). Under three things the earth quakes, And under four, it can not bear up: under a slave when he becomes a king, and a fool when he satisfied with food, under an unloved woman when she gets a husband, and a maidservant when she supplants her mistress. Queen Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and Jezebel nearly brought the royal line David to extinction: She was zealous to rule Judah after the death of her king son Ahaziah, She was determined to perpetuate the worship of Baal in Judah. She destroyed all the royal offspring, except Joash, who survived by a whisker! He was hidden by Jehosheba. (2Kings 11:1-2). When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she rose and destroyed all the royal off-spring. But Jehosheba, the daughter of king Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah and stole him from among the king's sons who were being put to death, and placed him and his nurse in the bedroom. So they hid him from Athaliah, and he was not put to death.

An odious woman, just like a contentious woman, always finds issues to quarrel with, with every one around her. Such people do not have favor both from God and fellow man. The rejection in them is contagious. When Paul went to Philippi, he was met and welcomed by two women. After some time, these women turned against each other and created factions probably over personal issues. (Philippians 4:2) I urge Euodia and I urge syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. These women were poised to destroy what they themselves had built.

4. Being Nagging: Is to constantly harassing some one to do something. Men generally **hate** this. **(Proverbs 21:19; 25:24).** It is

better to live in a desert land that with a nagging and vexing woman. It is better to live in a corner of the roof than in a house shared with a nagging woman.

An understanding woman does not apply tremendous pressure to her husband to get what she wants, but rather relies on God to remind him. Husbands, by nature, are delighted to meet their wives needs. It satisfies their ego. However, due to limitation he may not be in position to meet a need of his wife at a particular time. What is expected, especially of a Christian woman, is to understand and wait prayerfully and patiently. (James 4:1) What is the cause of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasure that wage war in your members?

Men may be stronger than women, but men are more delicate than women. Life expectancy is higher in women than it is in men.

5 Being Wanton: Is to be sexually immodest or promiscuous and being deeply in love with the world. (James 4:4). You Adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. There are sisters in the church today who have never conquered the love of the world. (1 John 2: 15-16). Do not love the world nor the things in the world, if any one loves the world, the love of the father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of flesh, and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the father but is from the world.

Their values are derived from:

- (i) Their social status Who they are
- (ii) Possessions What they have
- (iii) Appearance How they look

Sexual sin is a cancer that destroys family fiber and should be avoided. Sexual sin has impact that lasts for generations with dire negative consequences. (Exodus 34:6-7) Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving kindness and truth; who keeps loving kindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet he will be no means

leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grand children to the third and fourth generation.

Also (Deuteronomy23:2-3). No one of illegitimate birth shall enter the assembly of the Lord; none of his descendants, even to the tenth generation, shall enter the assembly of the Lord. No Ammonite or Moabite shall enter the assembly of the Lord; none of their descendants, even to the tenth generation, shall ever enter the assembly of the Lord. Hidden sexual sin affects, not only husband or wife, who may have committed it, but the entire family for generations.

(Proverbs 28:13) He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.

A foolish woman in wantonness is like a slut that falls into temptations and hides it. (**Proverbs 30:20**) This is the way of an Adulterous woman: she eats and wipes her mouth, And says, I have done no wrong.

****THE END & SAFE JOURNEY BACK HOME ****