



Speak the Word Church
International
Women's Bible Study
February 5th 2021 6:30-8:00pm
Online

THE POWER OF RECIPROCITY



GOALS & KEY CONCEPTS:

- To have a biblical view of reciprocity based on biblical scriptural references.
- To understand how reciprocity impacts your personal life and the results that you currently have in your life.
- To help women understand the power of their relational investments, mutuality and sharing with others.
- To restore women to a godly sense of reciprocity.

DEFINITION: WHAT DOES RECIPROCITY MEAN?

- It is the quality or state of being reciprocal: mutual dependence, action, or influence.
- A mutual exchange of privileges.
- It is the concept of sharing, having similar feelings or being “shown by both sides”, as in “shared in common”.

ICEBREAKER:

1. What are some areas where you are expecting to have some reciprocity in your life?
2. Why is this important to you?
3. What investments do you need to make and what divestments do you need to make?

Examples:

- A woman's relationship with the Lord

- Family (Siblings, Marriage, Parenting)

- Friends

- Career

A. Questions of Reciprocity

Relationship	What type of relationship is it?
Exchange	What is the exchange in the relationship?
Communication	What is the communication and how is it happening?
Investment	What is the investment? What is the divestment?
Problem	What is the problem?
Responsibility	Who is responsible for the relationship? What are the responsibilities?
Care	How are you being cared for in the relationship?
Attitude	What are the attitudes that impact the reciprocity of the relationship?
Time	How has time impacted the relationship? How long has it been?
Effort	How much effort is being given? What is the return?

B. Women in the Bible with Reciprocity

I. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

John 4:1-27

⁴ Jesus^[a] knew the Pharisees had heard that he was baptizing and making more disciples than John ² (though Jesus himself didn't baptize them—his disciples did). ³ So he left Judea and returned to Galilee.

⁴ He had to go through Samaria on the way. ⁵ Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. ⁷ Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." ⁸ He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food.

⁹ The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans.^[b] She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?"

¹⁰ Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water."

¹¹ "But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? ¹² And besides, do you think you're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?"

¹³ Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. ¹⁴ But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life."

¹⁵ "Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water."

¹⁶ "Go and get your husband," Jesus told her.

¹⁷ "I don't have a husband," the woman replied.

Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband— ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!"

¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "you must be a prophet. ²⁰ So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim,^[c] where our ancestors worshiped?"

²¹ Jesus replied, "Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. ²³ But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. ²⁴ For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."

²⁵ The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

²⁶ Then Jesus told her, "I AM the Messiah!"^[d]

²⁷ Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked to find him talking to a woman, but none of them had the nerve to ask, “What do you want with her?” or “Why are you talking to her?” ²⁸ The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, ²⁹ “Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?” ³⁰ So the people came streaming from the village to see him.

QUESTIONS - The Woman at the Well

1. What are some key points of reciprocity in this woman’s life?
2. What are some areas where there is some mutuality or a shared experience? Are there any areas where she does not have any reciprocity?
3. How does her relationship with the Lord impact her sense of reciprocity in her life?
4. How does reciprocity occur in your relationship with Jesus? Are there any areas of your life where you think and feel as if there is not any reciprocity and you need restoration?

II. FAMILY (SIBLINGS, MARRIAGE, PARENTING)

Genesis 29:6-25 – The Life of Leah

⁶ Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah's eyes were weak,^[a] but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance. ¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” ¹⁹ Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” ²² So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. ²³ But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. ²⁴ (Laban gave^[b] his female servant Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her servant.) ²⁵ And in the morning, behold, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” ²⁶ Laban said, “It is not so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷ Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” ²⁸ Jacob did so, and completed her week. Then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. ²⁹ (Laban gave his female servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel to be her servant.) ³⁰ So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah, and served Laban for another seven years.

³¹ When the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. ³² And Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben,^[c] for she said, “Because the LORD has looked upon my affliction; for now my husband will love me.” ³³ She conceived again and bore a son, and said, “Because the LORD has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also.” And she called his name Simeon.^[d] ³⁴ Again she conceived and bore a son, and said, “Now this time my husband will be attached to me, because I have borne him three sons.” Therefore his name was called Levi.^[e] ³⁵ And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, “This time I will praise the LORD.” Therefore she called his name Judah.^[f] Then she ceased bearing.

QUESTIONS

1. What sense of reciprocity does Leah have in her life? Who in her life has impacted her sense of a having a shared mutual experience?
2. What “Questions of Reciprocity” would you like to know about Leah?
 - a. *What was the communication that surrounded her life?*
 - b. *What were the exchanges that were made for her life?*
 - c. *What was the problem in her life?*
 - d. *Who cared for Leah?*
3. How did the Lord give her a sense of reciprocity in her life although other people did not?

III. FRIENDS

Phillipians 2:1-7- Euodia & Syntyche

²I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. ³Yes, I ask you also, true companion,^[b] help these women, who have labored^[c] side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness^[d] be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

QUESTIONS

1. What was the Apostle Paul attempting to create among these women who clearly disagreed about something in the church?
2. What were some “Questions of Reciprocity” about Euodia & Syntyche?
 - a) What was the problem?
 - b) What was the attitude of Paul surrounding the situation?
 - c) What is the investment vs. the divestment in the church?
 - d) What effort was required of them to get to the “peace of God”?

IV. CAREER

Judges 4:1-10 – The Life of Deborah

4 And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD after Ehud died. 2 And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-hagoyim. 3 Then the people of Israel cried out to the LORD for help, for he had 900 chariots of iron and he oppressed the people of Israel cruelly for twenty years.

4 Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. 5 She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the people of Israel came up to her for judgment. 6 She sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh- Naphtali and said to him, "Has not the LORD, the God of Israel, commanded you, 'Go, gather your men at Mount Tabor, taking 10,000 from the people of Naphtali and the people of Zebulun. 7 And I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the river Kishon with his chariots and his troops, and I will give him into your hand'?" 8 Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go." 9 And she said, "I will surely go with you. Nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh. 10 And Barak called out Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh. And 10,000 men went up at his heels, and Deborah went up with him.

11 Now Heber the Kenite, a descendant of Moses' brother-in-law^[a] Hobab, had moved away from the other members of his tribe and pitched his tent by the oak of Zaananim near Kedesh.

12 When Sisera was told that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, 13 he called for all 900 of his iron chariots and all of his warriors, and they marched from Harosheth-hagoyim to the Kishon River.

14 Then Deborah said to Barak, "Get ready! This is the day the Lord will give you victory over Sisera, for the Lord is marching ahead of you." So Barak led his 10,000 warriors down the slopes of Mount Tabor into battle. 15 When Barak attacked, the Lord threw Sisera and all his chariots and warriors into a panic. Sisera leaped down from his chariot and escaped on foot. 16 Then Barak chased the chariots and the enemy army all the way to Harosheth-hagoyim, killing all of Sisera's warriors. Not a single one was left alive.

17 Meanwhile, Sisera ran to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, because Heber's family was on friendly terms with King Jabin of Hazor. 18 Jael went out to meet Sisera and said to him, "Come into my tent, sir. Come in. Don't be afraid." So he went into her tent, and she covered him with a blanket.

19 "Please give me some water," he said. "I'm thirsty." So she gave him some milk from a leather bag and covered him again.

20 "Stand at the door of the tent," he told her. "If anybody comes and asks you if there is anyone here, say no."

21 But when Sisera fell asleep from exhaustion, Jael quietly crept up to him with a hammer and tent peg in her hand. Then she drove the tent peg through his temple and into the ground, and so he died.

22 When Barak came looking for Sisera, Jael went out to meet him. She said, "Come, and I will show you the man you are looking for." So he followed her into the tent and found Sisera lying there dead, with the tent peg through his temple.

23 So on that day Israel saw God defeat Jabin, the Canaanite king. 24 And from that time on Israel became stronger and stronger against King Jabin until they finally destroyed him.

QUESTIONS

1. Deborah's role was a judge, and she was a prophet. How does reciprocity impact her life? Are there any mutual exchanges?

2. The victory was available for Barak, yet the Lord gave the victory through the hand of a woman. Jael, a woman defeated Sisera, the general of the army of King Jabin. What lesson does this provide in terms of reciprocity when responsibility is given to men, but women obtain the victory?
3. Deborah went from sitting under palm trees to going to up with Barak to defeat the nation's enemies. What efforts have you put into place because of reciprocity? What opportunities do you need to take?

FINAL THOUGHTS:

1. As a woman, how important is reciprocity in your life?
2. How can you seek the Lord to make sure reciprocity is occurring in your life for the fulfillment of your purpose?
3. What can you do if you sense that there are some areas of your life where reciprocity has not happened?
4. What "questions of reciprocity" do you need to ask about your life?