

# “God’s Word, Alive!”

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A Biblical Teaching Ministry Dedicated to “Holding Forth the Word of Life”  
by Velma Sanders

## “A Certain Woman”

When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house from which I came out. And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than

the first. And it came to pass, as He spoke these things, **a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto Him, Blessed is the womb that bore Thee, and the paps which Thou hast sucked.** But He said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

*(Luke 11:24-28, King James Version)*

The characters that appear and the situations that occur within the eleventh chapter of Luke are, without question varied in nature. In its opening verse, Jesus prays to His Father and His prayer gives birth to teaching. (Luke 11:1-13) Then, there is the unnamed, demon-possessed, hearing-impaired man that Jesus heals. His authority is, therefore, challenged by the religious leaders. (Luke 11:14-26) Meanwhile, in this chapter, a thick gathering of people had come. The Lord lays bare their motives. (Luke 11:29-36) Afterwards, a Pharisee invites Him to a dinner attended by other Pharisees, scribes and lawyers. (Luke 11:37-54) It is recorded in verses 53 and 54, “The Pharisees began to urge Him vehemently, and to provoke Him to speak of many things, laying wait for Him and seeking to catch something out of His mouth, that they might accuse Him.”

It is within the hostile environment of this eleventh chapter of Luke that the Spirit of God draws our attention to “a certain woman.” This woman makes her single entrance into the spotlight of history. She abruptly steps onto the stage, and then, just as rapidly, steps out, never to be seen or heard of again. Her appearance is brief, and her words, of only one sentence, are few. With lifted voice, she shouts, “Blessed is the womb that bore thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked.”

Crouched within her one sentence of fourteen words we see, upon close examination, an impure utterance of praise. Nevertheless, with her singular sentence, she has been qualified by God, penned by Luke, and placed within the Scriptures.

With death and life being in the power of the tongue (Proverbs 18:21), words, regardless of quantity, should never be underestimated. It is with one sentence that Satan introduces himself to Eve, as he says, “Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” (Genesis 3:1) It is with one sentence that Moses prays on behalf of his leprous sister, Miriam. (Exodus 12:13) In response to the Lord’s question, “But who say ye that I am,” Simon Peter replies, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (Matthew 16:13-16) Only one sentence, of three words, and Lazarus was raised from the dead, as Jesus said, “Lazarus come forth.” (John 11:43) From one sentence, the intimate chambers of the heart are unmasked and revealed, “for of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.” (Luke 6:45)

The Scriptures frequently admonish us to be wise, watchful, vigilant and discerning. We are told on more than one occasion to “take heed, lest we be deceived.” (Matthew 24:1; Ephesians 4:14; Colossians 2:8, 18; 1 Peter 5:8; 1 John 3:7)

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1) “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” (1 Thessalonians 5:21) “The simple believeth every word, but the prudent man looketh well to his going.” (Proverbs 14:15)

Having taught His disciples concerning prayer, this eleventh chapter immediately turns to Jesus Christ casting out an evil spirit. This supernatural act caused the ordinary people to marvel, but it stirred up Satan and his hosts to seek to discredit and muzzle the message of Jesus. It is within this soil of enmity that “a certain woman” lifts her voice and says, “Blessed is the womb that bore thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked.”

At first glance she may seem ever so pure and innocent as she opens her mouth in praise. But, with careful inspection, we see her words are those of counterfeit praise, inspired by the enemy himself. It is not always that the enemy comes with apparent weapon in hand. His comings are far often more subtle and cunning, than obvious and open. It is with this in mind, that we examine “a certain woman.” Let us look closer at how she spoke and what she said.

***“HOW” a certain woman spoke:***

***“And it came to pass, as He spoke these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto Him . . .”***

Unlike the disciples in Luke 11:1, “And it came to pass that, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, one of His disciples said unto Him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught His disciples,” she “interrupts” the Christ, as He spoke.

Her interruption was meant to inject within the crowd a spirit of confusion. We know that it is next to impossible to understand someone when two people are speaking at the same time. Satan seeks to cause confusion among the listeners as he strives, subtly though it is, to mingle his word with the Word of God. It is with strategic planning and perfect timing that “a certain woman” becomes the instrument of distraction.

The attention of the crowd has been diverted, if only for a moment, from Jesus. Having manifested His power and authority over Satan by earlier casting out a demon, Jesus proceeds to teach the people of the ways of Satan. This particular message was far from what the enemy would desire the people to be attentive to. It is imperative to Satan and his kingdom, that those revealing and exposing words from the Son of God be prevented. It is at this moment that Satan causes “a certain woman” to open her mouth and try to hinder Jesus Christ from relaying His message of exposing him, his companions, his works, his strategy and his defeat.

We are not told the proximity of this lady to the Christ, but wherever she was located, she “lifted up her voice.” She was loud. She was bold. She was disruptive. Although, everyone heard, she “said unto Him (Jesus).” Her main target was not the crowd, but the Christ. It is always that Satan is first the enemy of God, and secondly, the enemy of man.

***“WHAT” a certain woman said:***

***“. . . Blessed is the womb that bore thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked.”***

Turning from a casual glance, to a discerning look, it is not difficult to see that her praises did not glorify Jesus Christ. They glorified another. She praised “the womb that bore thee.” She did not praise Him. She praised “the paps which thou hast sucked.” She did not praise Him. It is with untiring cunningness that Satan seeks to “move” the Christ, and to place in His stead Mary.

“I am the LORD; that is My Name; and  
My glory will I not give to another,  
neither My praise to graven images.”  
(Isaiah 42:8)

Her praises sought to devalue the Christ, the Son of God. The enemy strives furiously to keep the Lord Jesus Christ in a state of infancy and childhood. Satan would have the masses to believe that He, whose Name is The Mighty God, and The Everlasting Father, is merely Mary’s child. (Isaiah 9:6)

His reasons for doing so are to “steal from God” his rightful glory; to dull the powerful weapon of praise and to bring that which is spiritual to a fleshly level. This reveals that Satan does not mind praise, just so it is not given to the one true God, who alone is worthy to be praised. The devil’s own evaluation of worship is stated in Luke 4:5-7, “And the devil said unto Him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them; for that is delivered unto me, and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou, therefore, wilt worship me, all shall be thine.”

***JESUS CHRIST'S RESPONSE:***

***But He said, "Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it."***

Perfect in discerning the thoughts and intents of the heart, Jesus acknowledged that her words were actually words of truth. Howbeit, with excellent wisdom, Jesus wielded masterfully the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

In just one, "*word-for-fourteen-word*," sentence,  
The Lord Jesus Christ:  
Glorified the Father  
Exalted the Word of God  
Protected His Own  
Blessed Man  
and Silenced the Enemy!

Through His tender, yet powerful Word, the gentle Redeemer, provided a way of escape even for "a certain woman." He preached to her the Word of Salvation. Jesus, the Savior, tells her that true blessings are for all who will hear and keep the Word of God.

Jesus, victorious in battle, has no need to recoil. In perfect uninterrupted peace He continues His ministry; powerful in Spirit. So masterful is the Lord in battle that it was not obvious to the ordinary eye that a battle had even been fought and won!

The lessons of "a certain woman" are needed in this day where many are the voices that clamor around the Christ. Under both the Old Testament and the New Testament, God has promised eternal blessings to all who hear and obey His Word.

It is through the voice of His Spirit and the voice of His Word, that we, by the Spirit of God, are led into acceptable worship unto the Father. It is only by spiritual means that our senses are sharpened to discern between holy and unholy, clean and unclean, good and evil.

Our Great High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, continues to save us, even in our praises.  
He alone makes them perfect and presentable to the Father.

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*"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a spirit; and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."* (John 4:23, 24)

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