**Jesus Restores Women**

 *Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him,****2****and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out,****3****and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means. (Luke 8:1-3, ESV)*

 Through Jesus, women find their place and value in this world. May the Lord bless you all today as we speak about Jesus’ restoring and emancipating characteristics. Our Lord Jesus had a profound effect on the human social fabric through his dealings with people. There was once a time when it was accepted that women and children lacked a “complete” voice or opinion in public or in social gatherings. It was the men that ran all important processes and events in society, and outside the home, neither the children nor the women had anything of value (so it was thought) to share with people. Apart from wealthy families, there weren’t many women who are remembered in the New Testament (compared to men). The balance of roles between men and women had been thrown off in the Old Testament ever since Adam and Eve’s fall from grace. Jesus, however, began to observe and solve this problem about women through his relationships and conversations. Today, our subject is Jesus’ restoration of women. Again, through Jesus, the woman finds her place and value in this world. Let’s see how that is…

 Jesus set womankind free and gave her a place equal to man as His follower. It is abundantly clear that Jesus gave more value to women than others did back when he was serving in the Holy Land. Along with the twelve disciples, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna were also following Him. The passage also says that they had been freed of evil spirits. In other words, not only had Jesus freed the women from the pressures and attacks of demons, but he had also given them a place in his missionary enterprise. Women had value for Jesus then, and still have it today (to the same degree). If the women were sick, Jesus healed them; if they had been driven crazy by demons, he had restored their minds and cured them. If they had been ignored by others, Jesus had seen them and given them value.

 Often the most important need of a human being is to be understood and valued. How important it is when a married couple become good listeners of each other. When they hear each other well, they understand each other in a deeper way and create a safe atmosphere in the relationship. How important it is to see a man or a woman in their true state of mind and being. How important it is to listen to a spouse or a friend in such a way that they feel that they are heard and respected as a person.

 Today, if God has brought you forth on this earth as a woman, you have an equal place with men both alongside Jesus as well as within His Body, the Church. God frees you too from sin and demons. God, through Jesus, calls you as well to His mission, to spread the Good news of Christ. Also, God destines you too to inherit salvation, by your faith, in Jesus.

 If you are a woman, you always have a place at Jesus’ table. If you are a man, may you never be an obstacle for a woman to come to Christ, to follow Him, to serve Him according to her gifts. Through Jesus, women find their place and value in this world. Today, we give God thanks for having created womankind alongside men, to serve with them and to advance the cause of Christ. May the Lord Bless you; Amen.