

**The Woman in the Background**

**Luke 4:38-40** <sup>38</sup>Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. <sup>39</sup>So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them. <sup>40</sup>When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. (NIV 84)

**Luke 8:1-3** <sup>1</sup>After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, <sup>2</sup>and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; <sup>3</sup>Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means. (NIV 84)

I. There was a **need for ministry**.

- A. Jesus and the disciples were extremely busy **performing ministry**. 4:38,40; 8:1
- B. There was a need for someone to meet their **physical needs**. 8:3

II. There were wounded women who had been **ministered** to by Jesus.

- A. Peter's Mother-in-Law had a high fever and was unable to **serve** the needy ministers until Jesus healed her. 4:38
- B. Many women who had first been ministered to, **traveled** with the ministers. 8:2
- C. They all had legitimate **reasons** for not serving anyone.

III. The **women** needed to be ministered to before they could serve.

- A. They all needed the touch of **Jesus Christ** to receive healing. 4:38; 8:2
- B. Many women have trouble coming to Jesus because of past **wounds**. All these women had to admit that they **needed help**.

IV. They served out of **gratitude** for what God had done for them.

- A. When we are **blessed** by God, He uses us to be a **blessing** to others.  
**II Corinthians 1: 3-5** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ overflow to us, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. (BSB)
- B. The women in Luke 4 and 8 **faithfully** served in the background. 4:39; 8:3
- C. They served and they supported the **ministry**.

**Women**, you are a blessing to us. We appreciate all that you do for us.

**Men**, how often do you show appreciation for the selflessness of the women in your life? Be proactive in ministering back to them.