

How did Jesus offer welcome?

Watch Video 3 Women in Ministry: An interview with Rev Mary Taylor <https://youtu.be/sS8Enf6cV1E>

WEDNESDAY – Welcoming women in Ministry

Mary Taylor, one of the Regional Ministers of the Yorkshire Baptist Association, spoke about the manifesto which we have been given both from Matthew 28:19 and Galatians 3:28

‘Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Mary makes the point that if we are called to go to ALL the earth making disciples, then surely God wished to release 100% of the population, both men and women for this task. Jesus treated women with transformational respect, empowerment and gave them a position in that society which had never been dreamt of. He lived out the verse which Paul wrote many years later in Galatians 3:28 that ‘all are one through Christ’ Jesus daily demonstrated what that meant.

Therefore, how did Jesus offer welcome to women? He loved them, healed them, transformed them, trusted them and sent them out.

For reflection

Here are some encounters which Jesus had with women which you may wish to read again:

Mark 14:1-11

John 8:1-11

Luke 8:40-48

John 4:10-42

Questions for Discussion

1. How were each of these women’s lives changed through their encounter with Jesus?
2. When Jesus’ approach to women was so transformational, why do we still struggle to see women leading in some of our churches?
3. How many times in a year do you have a woman to preach in your church?
4. What could you do to raise up young women as leaders?

Pray

- If this is relevant for you, seek forgiveness for your attitude to women in ministry
- Pray for women leaders that you know, both ordained and non-ordained
- Pray for young women to be raised up as leaders in your church