What is a woman worth?

All over our world today, women are treated like trash. They are abused. They are neglected. They are desired only for what they can give (their bodies, their service, for example). They are not desired for who they are.

In our churches, it should be different. For those who follow Jesus, it should be very, very different. What does Jesus think about women? How did Jesus talk with women? How did Jesus treat women? Before we look at how Jesus treated women, we need to look at how Adam treated Eve.

In the beginning, there was intimacy and freedom and trust. But sin shattered that intimacy. Sin broke the trust between Adam and Eve, and we are still suffering because of it. The moment sin entered the world, men started blaming women. (See Genesis 3:12) And we’re still blaming women for our sin.

Men hit women and then say, “She wasn’t respectful enough.” Often, men lust and then blame women. “She wasn’t wearing enough clothes. She was not modest.” I would like to say something very clearly: if a man lusts after a women, it is the man’s sin. If a man sins, it’s the man’s sin. Christian men must stop blaming women for their sin. Men have been doing this since the beginning, but we need to stop now.

I believe Jesus wants to restore intimacy and freedom and trust. But first, men must learn to value women like Jesus did.

THE VALUE OF WOMEN

Jesus grew up in a culture where women were seen as property. But Jesus comes along and treats women with dignity and respect, as equal heirs of the Kingdom. Loved. Jesus’ actions were very strange.

The culture in Jesus’ time treated women very poorly. Like slaves. The Romans did not allow women in politics or sports. Women were not allowed to go out in public alone. A woman was not allowed to learn under a rabbi and could not call a rabbi “Teacher.”

But Jesus often went out of his way to talk with women. He taught women. He allowed women to follow him. He treated women like they were worth his time, because they were. And are. In one case, Jesus even allowed a woman to return to her village as a missionary, spreading the good news about what Jesus had done for her.

JESUS BELIEVED THIS WOMAN WAS VALUABLE ENOUGH TO CARRY THE MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO THE WORLD
អំពើបាបដ្លមានតាំងត្ពីដើមមកដ្លត្្ូវកត្បញ្ចប់ក្នុងព្លឥឡូកន្ះ។ ត្រូវកាយកិកាពីយកើតជាមនុស្សគ្មិនបានប្ព្ឹតព្ះយ្ស៊ូមានកំណើតធំឡើងនៅក្នុងកប្បធម៌មួយដ្លស្្តីត្្ូវកគ្គុណតម្លោរបស់សោ្តី៖

ព្ះយ្ស៊ូដ្លន្ះគឺជារឿងដ៏ចម្ល្ក។ ក្នុងសម័យកាលគ្មិនឲ្យស្្តីខន់ច្ញទៅកាន់ពិភពលោកដ្លគ្បានឃើញ។ (លសូមមើល យ៉ូហាន ៤)

លើសពីន្ះទៀតព្ះអង្គក៏បានបញ្ជូនស្្តីឲ្យធ្វើជាប្សកជននៅឯទីភូមិរួមាំងប្ព្ឹតចំពោះស្្តីពីព្្ះគ្ក៏ជាមនុស្សមា្ន្ក់ដ្រ។ ការផ្តល់តម្ល្ទ្ង់បង្ៀនដល់នាងអនុញ្ញ្តឲ្យស្្តីដើរតាមព្ះអង្គអោយរៀនពីគ្ូវឬឲ្យគ្ហៅនាងថា "អ្នកគ្ូវ"ដ្រ។ ស្្តីគឺគ្មិនស្្តីគឺជាមនុស្សតំបូងគ្ដ្លបានប្កាសពីការរស់ឡើងកិញរបស់ម្យ៉្ងកិញទៀតនៅជំនាន់ដ្លមនុស្សបានដឹងថាទ្ង់រស់ឡើងកិញផ្ទុយទៅកិញព្ះយ្ស៊ូបានច្ញទៅនិយយជាមួយនឹងស្្តីដោយតាមស្្តីបានឮព្ះយ្ស៊ូមានបន្ទូលទ្ថា៖

ដល់ស្្តីទ្ង់ត្ងត្ជំាស់ជាមួយនឹងម្ដឹកនាំសាសនាដ្លត្ងធ្វើបាបព្លោះព្ះយ្ស៊ូក៏ឈរនៅទីោះដ្រហើយដោយព្្ះត្ទ្ង់ចង់ការពារផ្ស្ងៗដល់បុរសបានដ្រ។ (លសូមមើល យ៉ូហាន ២០)

មគ្មិនមើលនាមួយដ្លេឡើងអោយអូសមីស្តែតុតិ្លមូកបានលើទីភូមិនកែវក្រឹត់ស្តែតុតិ្លមានស្្តីពីព្្ះគ្ក៏ជាមនុស្សមា្ន្ក់ដ្រ។ ត្្ូវប្រុងប្រយ័ត្ន ប្រការប្រការក្នុងលោកអ្នកផ្តល់តូចតូចទៀត ហើយអនុញ្ញ្តឲ្យស្្តីដើរតាមព្ះអង្គអោយរៀនពីគ្ូវឬឲ្យគ្ហៅនាងថា "អ្នកគ្ូវ"ដ្រ។ ស្្តីគឺគ្មិនស្្តីគឺជាមនុស្សតំបូងគ្ដ្លបានប្កាសពីការរស់ឡើងកិញរបស់ម្យ៉្ងកិញទៀតនៅជំនាន់ដ្លមនុស្សបានដឹងថាទ្ង់រស់ឡើងកិញផ្ទុយទៅកិញព្ះយ្ស៊ូបានច្ញទៅនិយយជាមួយនឹងស្្តីដោយតាមស្្តីបានឮព្ះយ្ស៊ូមានបន្ទូលទ្ថា៖

ដល់ស្្តីទ្ង់ត្ងត្ជំាស់ជាមួយនឹងម្ដឹកនាំសាសនា displeased and distressed. They were astonished. (See John 20)

There is one more story that we must talk about. In John 8, a very vulnerable woman is in front of very powerful men. And Jesus stands in between. Because that's where he always stands. Jesus always positions himself between religious men and hurting women. When the men want to throw stones, Jesus stands there, protecting, wanting to heel hearts. We must follow his example.

Ladies, hear what Jesus says to you.

You are loved.
You are valuable.
You are precious to me.
I made you on purpose, and I love you.
If you have been hurt or abused, I am so sorry.
If you feel shame, remember that I came to erase shame.
When I see you, I do not see shame.
I see the girl I love, the girl I died for.
My daughters are shameless and blameless.
Perfect in my sight.

It is my hope and prayer that the Church in Cambodia would be a place where all people are respected and loved and cherished. Old and young, Rich and poor. Men and women.

Amen, Come, Lord Jesus.