

Chapter#03_Week#03

15 Significant Women

Week 3: The Ministry of Support (Diakonia)

Scripture: Luke 8:1–3

Focus: Joanna, Susanna, and the risk of stewardship.

1. How does the Greek term *diakoneo* redefine our modern understanding of "service" from a chore to a ministry?
2. Joanna was the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward. What political and social risks did she face by publicly funding a controversial Rabbi?
3. In what ways does the financial support of these women challenge the idea that "spiritual" work is superior to "administrative" or "financial" support?
4. How does Luke 8:1–3 dismantle the "lone ranger" myth of Jesus' ministry?
5. What does the inclusion of these women in the traveling party tell us about the social boundaries Jesus was willing to cross?
6. How can we distinguish between "giving out of abundance" and "stewarding out of conviction"?
7. Why is it significant that these women served Jesus "out of their own means"?
8. How does Joanna's position in a pagan household (Herod's) provide a blueprint for modern Christians working in secular or "hostile" environments?
9. In your own life, what "resources" (beyond money) have you been hesitant to place at the disposal of the Gospel?
10. How does the ministry of support act as a prerequisite for the expansion of the Kingdom?

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