



*"All One In Christ"*

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF ZAMBIA**

**SYNOD MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT**

**2023 MOTHERING WEEK / SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE**

**THEME: UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES AND WHAT TO DO, 1  
CHRONICLES 12:32**

**SUB THEME: A WOMAN OF CAPACITY AND INFLUENCE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

We are grateful yet again our heavenly Father, God Almighty for granting us grace to be part of what He is doing in this year, 2023. In our attempt to explore **A Woman of Capacity and Influence** as our sub theme for this year's Mothering and Sunday Sermon outline, we have to understand the two important terms in the theme. **Capacity** is *that maximum amount that something can contain or that amount that something can produce*. **Influence** on the other hand is *the capacity to have an effect on the character, development or behaviour of someone or something*. we are called to read the signs of our time, e.g. global trends in fashion and design, influence of technology and social media, migration and globalization, rebellion, rise of false prophets, appetite for money and fame to name but a few. To help we unpack this year's Sub-theme **A woman of Capacity and Influence**; we will in this week explore specific topics in that light.

**MONDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2023.**

**TOPIC: THE POWER OF PERSISTENCE**

**BIBLE READING: RUTH 1:6-18**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In this topic we will explore the power of Persistence by studying the two daughters in law of Naomi. Persistence is the fact of continuing in an opinion or course of action in spite of difficulty or opposition. In life, there are times when we must persist for the good fortune ahead of us.

### **BIBLE EXPLANATION**

The difference between Orpah and Ruth is persistence, Orpah had earlier stood with her sister -in-marriage Ruth from the beginning, holding the idea of following Naomi their Mother-in-law but she eventually gave up after their Mother-in-law insisted that they go back to their families and ancestors. However, we see that Ruth persevered until her wish was granted. The reply of Ruth in vs. 16 demonstrates something of significance in our faith walk with God. Her clinging to Naomi revealed that she had absolute confidence in the God of her Mother in law and her people and was affirming the importance of family to stick together even in difficult times especially the times of loss.

### **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Do you think persistence is key in our faith? Give reasons for your answer.
2. Why did Naomi change her mind and allow Ruth to return to Bethlehem with her?
3. What lessons can we learn from the passage in relation to the power of persistence?

4. Discuss the following , “when you are **convinced** and **convicted** about your faith, you can always persist”, Romans 10:17 & Hebrews 11:1-3, 6

## **CONCLUSION**

We are living in a season where many believers are becoming desperate for nothing. Many people are failing to be patient and wait upon God. If you cannot persevere it becomes difficult to wait upon God. It is therefore imperative to note that there are blessings in persistence and your resolve for a right cause.

**TUESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2023**

**TOPIC: HARD WORK IS NECESSARY IN SUCH A TIME AS THIS**

**BIBLE READING: RUTH 2: 1-23**

## **INTRODUCTION**

When you think through you will realize that there is high cost of living today, meaning that we cannot just sit back and complain to the Government and other stakeholder involved, but we need to take a step and help ourselves to come out of such challenging times. We need to kill the dependency syndrome completely, and this can only be achieved by working hard. In other words hard work is necessary in such a time as this.

## **BIBLE EXPLANATION**

In this Bible passage we learn that Naomi had a Kin man’s redeemer in the person of Boaz even when she did not know how life was going to be when she returned to Bethlehem. This man was wealthy and very influential in Bethlehem. Instead of waiting on the good will of the wealth man, Ruth told her mother in law that she was going to pick the stalks of grain left behind in the fields of Boaz. Later after work Boaz inquired from his workers who Ruth was,

she was noticed, she was a hard worker and very caring for the welfare of her mother in law. In vs. 17, it is recorded that Ruth would work all day and that in the evening she would beat out the grain and filled the entire basket. Hard work is Gods blessed system of advantage to a happy supplied life because He blesses the work of our hands.

### **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Why is hard work necessary in such a time as this when we are faced with serious economic challenges?
2. What made Ruth to be recognized by Boaz and win favor in his site?
3. Discuss about the various works or trade you are involved in as women of God?
4. How can we balance faith and prayer and the need to work?

### **CONCLUSION**

Let us endeavor to work hard and kill the dependency syndrome as individuals, churches and communities as a whole. God as already spoken a blessing in our lives, it is up to us to rise up, work hard, regardless of our status and become that winning team.

**WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH, 2023**

**TOPIC: A WOMAN OF INTEGRITY**

**BIBLE READING: RUTH 3:1-6**

### **INTRODUCTION**

It is very important to know as a Christian that one of the things that make a woman to be a fine woman is integrity. If you lose integrity as a woman then

you cease to be a fine woman, because integrity emphasizes self-discipline, self-respect, and moral upright.

### **BIBLE EXPLANATION**

Naomi had over time observed the honesty and sincerity of Ruth, though she could not give her another husband from her womb, she instructed her to follow her lead. Her obedience and submission to instruction earned her a marriage to Boaz, though a Moabite, she was later named in the lineage of Jesus Christ.

### **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Why is integrity important especially to women?
2. Why did Naomi gain so much respect from her daughters-in-law?
3. What can we learn from Ruth's integrity and obedience?
4. Why is it difficult in our generation to be honest about life and what we do?

### **CONCLUSION**

Integrity is one of the important elements of a Christian especially women, in that it helps one to gain respect from the community or society at large. Let us endeavor to exercise self-discipline for us to get the respect that we deserve and win God's approval and favor.

**THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH, 2023**

**TOPIC: YOU ARE THERE FOR A REASON**

**BIBLE READING: 2 KINGS 4: 8-17**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Count yourself to be more important and special that is the reason why God placed you where you are. The church and servants of God exist among people and you are one of those people. When you stand up for God's servants and render the support needed you command a blessing upon your life and the work that you do.

### **BIBLE EXPLANATION**

In the course of his prophetic ministry, Elisha visited the town of Shunem where a wealthy woman with her husband lived. She asked Elisha to come to her house for a meal. But after discovering that Elisha often visited Shunem she request her husband that she build a room for Elisha so, that he would lodge there whenever he came for Ministry in that area. She told her husband that she perceived Elisha to be the man of God, and hence built a small room on the top for him, put in a bed, a table, a chair and a lamp. In this generous and sacrificial efforts, Elisha asked her if she needed any help from him, either to talk to the King on her behalf or the King of the army but she objected and asserted that her family already took good care of her and lacked nothing. However, the Elisha's servant Gehazi , noticed that she had no child and that her husband was well advanced in age. Elisha prophesied that about that same time the next year, she would nurse her own child and it came to pass.

### **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Why should we support servants of God?
2. What lessons can we draw from the rich woman in the passage?
3. What did she notice about Elisha for her to affirm, he was a man of God?

4. How can you distinguish between manipulation and genuine act of Biblical giving to help God's servants and God's ministry?

## **CONCLUSION**

We need to understand that we exist for a reason and we have been placed where we are for a reason. We are all men or women of God in our own right, however, the geography of our assignment and our unique call and mandate is what differentiates the ordained ministry and the laity. The UCZ believes in the Priesthood of all believers. We must therefore serve God in our different capacities but all to His glory and honor. It is those capacities and unique gifts that should propel us to support God's mission and his servants.

**FRIDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH, 2023**

**TOPIC: THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY**

**BIBLE READING: EXODUS 20: 12; PROVERBS 11: 29**

## **INTRODUCTION**

It is important to note that you cannot do without family because family is one of the most important support system we have in our lives. The family unity is one of the critical foundation of any society, Church and Nations at large. Despite its undisputed importance, it has been at the center of attack since ancient times both from evil forces and the limitations of humanity's insatiable greedy and structural and systemic cancers. God in His wisdom, intended to extend His reign and sovereign influence to the created order through His shared dominion given to humanity.

A family was intended to co-exist in God's presence, guided by Gods Kingdom principles in an eco-system that had a dependent dispensation. This family unit was to relate to the Creator and other created order, which God adorned

as and called as His own to reflect His glory. The stability, growth, values and productivity are heavily dependent upon the stability of families. As we attempt to read the signs of our time, attention should be paid to family, and not only the traditional biological and extended family but also the family of the faithful. This is because families mostly are the first place where children learn how to do things; interact with other people and communicate with others.

### **BIBLE EXPLANATION**

Honour is one of the key factors that attract favour and opens closed doors for your life. The desire of God is that children should learn to honour their parents through serving them, honoring them with respect and gifts. The authorized way of inheritance is through honour, parents cannot pass on what they represent to their sons and daughters if they have been dishonored. It is not right for us as members to honour servants of God with deep respect, pay homage to them and sacrificially give to them gifts at the expense of our own biological parents and guardians.

### **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Why are families important to God?
2. What is the main purpose of family
3. Give examples of godly families can we draw lesson from in the Bible?
4. What is the role and responsibilities of parents to children and vice-versa?

### **CONCLUSION**

Let us always remember that family is a gift from God who initiated it right from the beginning through our ancestors Adam and Eve. It is through families that God fulfils his purpose for humanity, we should therefore cherish, take care, protect, support, respect and pray for our families.





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**SYNOD MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT**

**2023 SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE**

**THEME: UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES AND WHAT TO DO,**

**1 CHRONICLES 12:32**

**SUB THEME: A WOMAN OF CAPACITY AND INFLUENCE**

**5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2023**

**BIBLE READING: LUKE 8:1-3**

### **INTRODUCTION**

We are living at a time where we need to redefine our calling and true identity in God. We are faced with a complex world full of distress, socio-economic hardships, sophisticated technology, sickness and disease among many others. How do you become that woman of capacity and influence in such a time as this, when there are still high levels of HIV/AIDS prevalence in the country; at a time when the Church is challenged by so many false prophets that have arisen, increase of commodity prices on the market which have triggered the high cost of living especially for a common person in society, how can we influence and reverse this reality? When society is faced with social-economic

challenges that have affected the Church too, how do you become that woman of capacity and influence in such a time as this? We are therefore called to continue reflecting on the theme for this year and seek to understand the times we are in. What are the signs of our time? What we are seeing, observing and experiencing is calling us to discern what to do to transform societies and improve people's livelihoods. Once we understand the times, we can then position ourselves and have the ability to perform and produce.

### **BIBLE EXPLANATION**

First and foremost it very important to understand the main aim of Luke's Gospel for us to get the real meaning and lessons behind the text we have read. Among many other matters, Luke presents the Gospel as the gospel for the 'underdogs' meaning that the Christian gospel knows no barriers of race or class but a gospel also for the poor, the outcast, and the lost.

He presents it in such a way that every reader can understand the fact that God is concerned about the 'rejects of society' as much as He does the righteous. To actually teach that Jesus was the 'friend of sinners' who had come to seek and to save that which was lost. In other words his narrative teaches us that Jesus' Gospel is universal and is for everyone. This means that if you are to become that woman of capacity and influence you do not need to look down on yourself but to realize your potential within and to begin living the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is seen in the portion of scripture we have read where Luke records women who accompanied Jesus, in order to show that not only the twelve disciples were important to the ministry of Jesus but women also were among the twelve disciples of Jesus. Not only were they followers and hearers but they accompanied him to influence his ministry through their financial and social contributions.

Sometimes we boast that we have stayed for so many years in the Church but how often have we supported God's mission? What kind of influence are you in the body of Christ for progress or for destruction? The women we have read

about in this narrative were apparently those who had been helped and healed by Jesus. Mary came from the village of Magdala (hence her nickname 'Magdalene'); the idea that she was an immoral woman probably comes from the fact that the word 'magdalah' at one time meant 'harlot'. But what is interesting about these women is that they evidently had great devotion and determination where influencing the ministry of Jesus was concerned. We have to draw out the potential within, revitalize it, capacitate the weak and channel it to influence the world for God.

## **POINTS OF REFLECTION**

### **1. WE ARE MISSIONARIES OF OUR TIME**

We need to realize that we are missionaries of our time, meaning that there is no one who will come and end our socio-economic challenges that our Church, communities and society faces. For Jesus' ministry to be successful there were women who were part of the ministry. What influence are you adding to Women Christian Fellowship (WCF) and the Church at large? Are you that woman who always wait for others to act or make a step? Are you that woman who always say 'we shall see, they are going nowhere'? Brothers and sisters in the Lord, we have reached a time where we should not wait for anyone to empower us or do something for us in order to come out of the financial challenges we are facing today apart from ourselves.

If we are to become that woman of capacity and influence, we should realize that we ourselves are what we needed in the first place to make difference. We are the resource that we need; we are the capital that we need; let us not just think of money as capital but we are the capital we need to start a project, invest in a business and make money. All we need to do is change our mindset, have great devotion and determination.

## **2. REALIZE YOUR POTENTIAL:**

The problem is that sometimes we tend to look down at ourselves, especially women. Most of the time people think that the only disciples Jesus had were twelve men but they forget and do not pay much attention to the women in the back ground who influenced Jesus' ministry financially.

What financial value are you adding to your congregation? Can you be counted among women of capacity and influence in your group (WCF)? What sort of energy are you adding to your congregation? Is it negative or positive influence? You need to rise up and be counted in your community by becoming that woman who shall influence the youth in the community by speaking against high levels of AIDS, early pregnancies, school drop outs and early marriages. A woman of capacity and influence understands the times and always endeavor to do the right thing. Be a prayer warrior, hard working woman, an example of good will, contributor to the mission agenda of the church both in a small way or a big way, at the end of it do something for your God and your community.

Brothers and sisters in the Lord, the times we are in call for a serious change of mindsets and way of doing things; it calls for a serious social-economic transformation and not business as usual; do not just wait for someone to give you something or do something for you. Ask yourself "what can I do for myself in order to earn a living? Do not be desperate for nothing and don't be cheated by the so called 'papas' but be positioned and respond positively to the changing times.

## **CONCLUSION**

There is time for everything, when it is time to pray, pray to God; and when it is time for work, work hard to put food on your table. May God help you to become that woman of capacity and influence even as you journey in such a season as this. May God help us to change our mindset and understand that we are missionaries of our time, no one will come and sort out our financial

challenges or any other social ills, if we do not do it ourselves, no one will! It is therefore time to realize your potential as a woman and contribute positively to the body of Christ, your community and Society at large.

**Amen!**

**THE MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO THANK  
REV. HARRISON MUSWEMA, MINISTER IN CHARGE OF UCZ KAPATA  
CONGREGATION, CHIPATA-EASTERN PRESBYTERY FOR PREPARING  
THIS YEAR'S (2023) MOTHERING WEEK/SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE FOR  
THE MONTH OF MARCH.**

**FOR ANY FUTHER DETAILS GET IN TOUCH WITH THE MISSION &  
EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT ON THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS-**

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