

The Unsung Heroes of Faith



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Introduction...

There are many inspiring and well-known Bible characters of faith we hear and read about in the scriptures however in this little booklet I want to draw your attention to some Bible characters that perhaps you have never heard of before.

Hopefully these unsung heroes of faith will inspire you to grow to greater heights in your walk with the Lord.

In this booklet we're going to talk of such characters as Shiphrah and Puah.

Have you heard of Shiphrah and Puah?

For most of you the names probably don't ring a bell, yet they were major players in the plan of God when their turn came to step out in faith.

Through the course of this booklet we are going to take a look at some of the pivotal moments in the history of the people of God. Some of the turning points. And look and see the people who were there at the time and the things that they did.

There is a lesson in these events for us, as we shall see as we read about some of the unsung heroes of faith....

Shiphrah and Puah.

We take up the story of the nation of Israel in subjection to the Egyptians living in Egypt...

Scripture

Exodus 1:7-21

And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them.

Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel [are] more and mightier than we:

Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and [so] get them up out of the land.

Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses.

But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel. And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour:

And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, [was] with rigour. And the king of Egypt spake to the **Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one [was] Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah:**

And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see [them] upon the stools; **if it [be] a son, then ye shall kill him:** but if it [be] a daughter, then she shall live.

But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive. And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive?

And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women [are] not as the Egyptian women; for they [are] lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them. Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty. **And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses.**

Scripture

That scripture passage is translated a bit awkwardly there. Houses mean families of their own. Therefore the midwives were blessed with their own families because they feared God more than the Pharaoh.



And so at this pivotal moment, the time when God was beginning to deal with Egypt and was about to bring into nationhood this people of Israel who were up until this time related in a genetic or a blood sense but were not a nation. They were tribes and a people who were slaves in Egypt and had never operated before as anything more than a family.

God was about to anoint them, bring them out through the Red Sea and make a nation of them. A special nation, they were people of the covenant. A people whom God promised he would deliver, and a land he promised to Abraham that he would give them.

And right at this time the enemy of Israel was seeking to destroy them, to kill them.

However two faithful women **Shiphrah, and Puah** who feared God and loved Israel were not afraid to withstand the might of Pharaoh and who were happy to risk their lives for God and the people... Were able to stop the intentions of the Egyptian King and were a vital part in the amazing events that were about to take place.

Because it was from that time forward that God began to deal with Moses and with Aaron along with the Pharaoh of Egypt and the end result saw Israel marching out of Egypt, across the Red Sea into the wilderness and eventually into the promised land.

Two of the key people in this episode of history were the two Hebrew midwives Shiphrah and Puah. They were just ordinary folk but they feared God and withstood Pharaoh and were not afraid to risk their lives for what they believed in.

Think about what they were doing for a moment... They were just doing their day to day job. Nothing special – it's what they did all the time. Yet an opportunity came their way and they were found faithful.

Perhaps in your day to day life things may seem ordinary, dull or even dreary at times however I wonder how many opportunities come your way?

I'm sure if you have faithfulness as the midwives had you will make a difference in someone's life...

This book could go on forever if we were to talk about all the ordinary folk who risked their lives throughout Bible history. We could speak about Rahab who put the scarlet thread in the window before the battle against Jericho. We could talk about Esther, Ruth, Naomi, the wife of Moses and many other amazing people who did wonderful things through faith and dedication to the word of God.

With some of these unsung heroes we don't even know their names...

The Little Maid

Scripture

2 Kings 5:1-15

Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, [but he was] a leper.

And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel **a little maid**; and she waited on Naaman's wife. And **she said** unto her mistress, Would God my lord [were] with the prophet that [is] in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.

And [one] went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that [is] of the land of Israel. And the king of Syria said, Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel. And he departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand [pieces] of gold, and ten changes of raiment.

And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, Now when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have [therewith] sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy.

And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, [Am] I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me.

And it was [so], when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.

So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.

But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.

[Are] not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage.

And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, [if] the prophet had bid thee [do some] great thing, wouldest thou not have done [it]? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?

Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that [there is] no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.

----- Scripture -----



Let's take some time to think about this situation and perhaps compare the attitude of this little maid with that of our own if we were found to be in the same situation...

Here we see this woman in a very mundane job. She is a maid and what's more the Bible singles her out as a LITTLE maid. There's nothing exciting here about her life, from all accounts she is just a normal, every day, regular, plain sort of person.

What's more the scriptures don't even reveal her name, we have no idea of who she is apart from the fact that she was a little maid.

Now let's look closely at her situation...

She was a captive. She had been removed from her own home by force and was virtually a slave to her enemies. The people who she was sharing the good news with were her enemies.

So as I stated above let's compare how our attitude would have been in the same situation.

If we found ourselves in the hands of our enemies, forcefully removed from our homes and our own country and having lost all of our possessions and worldly goods would we still be so positive?

Quite possibly separated from our family and friends, would we be still willing to share the good news about God or would we be full of self-pity and full of complaints?

Examine the faith of this unknown woman. She witnessed to others of the wonderful healing power of God and as a result a great and mighty man of the enemy of Israel was healed and found God.

It's also worth noting the lack of faith demonstrated by the King of Israel. When Naaman sent the letter requesting to be healed the King panicked and thought the worst. He didn't have the same faith that the little maid demonstrated.

Of course it's also another example of thinking the worst about people before really getting to know them. Naaman's intentions were legitimate yet the King thought he was being set up. Perhaps a good pointer to us for not also jumping to conclusions before we know all of the facts.

It's also worth noting the wisdom of the servants who encouraged Naaman to obey the instructions of the prophet. How blessings, wisdom and understanding fall upon the humble rather than proud.

However without raving on about all of the other things we can draw from this story the focus of this book is on the unsung heroes of faith and this little maid certainly fits into that category.

Remember this woman could very well have been just like you. She was just an ordinary every day person who had faith in God. Be inspired by her and others we shall read about in this book.

Anna, a prophetess

----- Scripture -----

Luke 2:25-39

And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name [was] Simeon; and the same man [was] just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this [child] is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; And she [was] a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served [God] with fastings and prayers night and day.

And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem. And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

----- Scripture -----

Now we don't know, it's not recorded about the 60 or so years of devotion and of seeking of her God that this woman Anna had devoted except that she lived in the temple day by day and she lived as a widow for about 60 years as well.



It's not recorded what she did, or where she came from or how she came to be in this favored position but as she steps onto the stage of life for just a short moment God the creator of the Heavens and the earth shows her his son.

This is the boy, this is the baby Jesus, the child, this is the hope and the light of the world, this is he who will lead all people back to God. She was a witness and a testimony.

But like Mary the mother of Jesus and Elizabeth the mother of John the Baptist, Anna was a witness and a testimony to the coming of Jesus Christ to the earth.

And again at a very important moment she walked onto the narrative and then walked off again after perhaps holding the Savior in her arms and perhaps prophesying a word or two of prophecy.

Perhaps that was it. Perhaps that was the big pay off and the day of all days for Anna, for which she sort the Lord fervently every day for 60 years.

And as we read about these people and think about the things they did there's a couple of things I want you to understand.

One is that they were really ordinary folk. Whilst we said earlier we are talking about the unsung heroes of scripture these people are more unsung than heroes if you know what I mean. But they were there when it happened. They were there witnesses to the most important things ever happened in the history of mankind.

The 300 Who Fought With Gideon

Scripture

Judges 7:1-25

Then Jerubbaal, who [is] Gideon, and all the people that [were] with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the host of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that [are] with thee [are] too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.

Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever [is] fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. **And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.**

And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people [are] yet [too] many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, [that] of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go.

So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.

And the number of them that lapped, [putting] their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.

And the LORD said unto Gideon, **By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you,** and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the [other] people go every man unto his place.

So the people took victuals in their hand, and their trumpets: and he sent all [the rest of] Israel every man unto his tent, and retained those three hundred men: and the host of Midian was beneath him in the valley.

And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Arise, get thee down unto the host; for I have delivered it into thine hand.

But if thou fear to go down, go thou with Phurah thy servant down to the host:

And thou shalt hear what they say; and afterward shall thine hands be strengthened to go down unto the host. **Then went he down with Phurah his servant** unto the outside of the armed men that [were] in the host.

And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels [were] without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude.

And when Gideon was come, behold, [there was] a man that told a dream unto his fellow, and said, Behold, I dreamed a dream, and, lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian, and came unto a tent, and smote it that it fell, and overturned it, that the tent lay along.

And his fellow answered and said, This [is] nothing else save the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel: [for] into his hand hath God delivered Midian, and all the host.

And it was [so], when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped, and returned into the host of Israel, and said, Arise; for the LORD hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian.

And he divided the three hundred men [into] three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers.

And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be [that], as I do, so shall ye do.

When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that [are] with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, [The sword] of the LORD, and of Gideon.

So Gideon, and the hundred men that [were] with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that [were] in their hands.

And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow [withal]: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.

And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled.

And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host: and the host fled to Bethshittah in Zererath, [and] to the border of Abelmeholah, unto Tabbath.

And the men of Israel gathered themselves together out of Naphtali, and out of Asher, and out of all Manasseh, and pursued after the Midianites.



Wow! There's a lot there, however here we have yet again, nameless heroes of the faith. There is no history, no knowledge, no recording whatsoever about who these 300 men were. Yet they were instrumental in the deliverance of Israel.

Once again we see that you don't have to be a leader, you don't have to have your names up in lights to be a hero of the faith. Also consider how these guys were told to fight...

Not only were they just 300 in number up against an enemy who were as grasshoppers for magnitude they were also given strange weapons to fight with.

Trumpets, pitchers and lamps. Now they definitely had faith.

These men followed, they helped and they obeyed without hesitation, Truly great heroes of the Bible.

I want to draw your attention to just a couple of other points here. I also believe it was brave for the initial 22,000 to admit they were afraid. Remember the Lord commanded that any who were afraid were to return.

Now this might seem like an easy way out, however can you imagine all of these men returning to their homes? Can you imagine the stigma attached to them? Why are you back and the others aren't?

It would have been hard to confess that you were afraid.

Another point worth mentioning is the great hero Gideon admitted fear. God said to him, **But if thou fear to go down, go thou with Phurah** thy servant down to the host.

And hopefully you noticed that Gideon DID go down with Phurah, so there's nothing wrong with being afraid. As long as we conquer fear and it doesn't conquer us.

The Widow Of Zarephath

Scripture

1 Kings 17:8-24

And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which [belongeth] to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.

So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman [was] there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

And as she was going to fetch [it], he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

And she said, [As] the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I [am] gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go [and] do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring [it] unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.

For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day [that] the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat [many] days.

[And] the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah. And it came to pass after these things, [that] the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him.

And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son? And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed.

And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son? And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.

And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.

And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth.

And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou [art] a man of God, [and] that the word of the LORD in thy mouth [is] truth.

----- Scripture -----

So here we have a woman of great faith and yet we still do not know her name. We only know her as the widow of Zarephath...

Do you see the faith she had? These were terrible times, there had been no rain, no crops, no food and all the stored food was fast running out. Both the woman and her son were facing certain death.

She was down to her last bit of food, just enough to feed herself and her son and then death. Then along comes this prophet of God and says feed me first... then feed yourself and our child.

Now this is a big call. However she obeyed... and she could only have obeyed by faith.

And because she followed the word of the prophet the food never ran out...

However her son later died and after much anger aimed towards God by both the prophet and the woman the boy was risen from the dead.

Now think on this for a moment.

Both the prophet and the woman had demonstrated such amazing faith yet in this strategy they both blamed God for the boys death. It just goes to show that all of us can have our weaker moments, yet we still can be faithful to God despite our weaknesses and doubt.

Of course it's sometimes hard to see the obvious when we are going through such pain. However don't you think God knew this boy and indeed the mother were going to die and he had it all in hand by sending his prophet to take care of the situation.

However once again we see another nameless person of faith who stepped out in faith when the time came and as a result saved both her life and the life of her son.

----- Scripture -----

Hebrews 13:2

Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

----- Scripture -----

Salome

This time we are talking about the death of Jesus Christ, his ministry was complete, he had preached around Galilee, Jerusalem and the Holy land for 3 years and was now crucified.

Scripture

Mark 15:33-41

And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

And some of them that stood by, when they heard [it], said, Behold, he calleth Elias.

And one ran and filled a sponge full of vinegar, and put [it] on a reed, and gave him to drink, saying, Let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take him down.

And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost.

And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.

And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.

There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome;

(Who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered unto him;) and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem.

Scripture

Salome is another character we don't know a great deal about. However in the above scripture it tells us that Salome was one of the women who followed Jesus and ministered to him.

So during Jesus ministry and time upon the earth clearly they were there taking care of things and ministering to their needs and perhaps doing the practical things that needed doing. Taking care of things in the back ground as Jesus spread the gospel.

At Jesus death when some of the more prominent were not there and unable to stand up for Jesus and to see his torment and crucifixion – Salome was there standing up for her Lord.

She was there withstanding the hatred and the condemnation of the mob. Not denying, still hanging on, still in the background standing off to one side, still looking to do what needed to be done.

----- Scripture -----

Mark 16:1-8

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the [mother] of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

And very early in the morning the first [day] of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you. And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any [man]; for they were afraid.

----- Scripture -----

So there they were again and Salome taking care of the details even at this the most terrible and worst time of their life's.

Even at a time when they did not understand what was going to happen, even when they hadn't seen the end of what was going on.

Even when this man whom they had loved and cared for and who they believed had been the son of God and at this staged seemed to have let them down.

Because they believed he was the King of the Jews, the Messiah and here he was destroyed, laying in a grave, dead!

Even so, on that day, despite all their confusion and grief they arose early in the morning and took the spices and yet again came to tidy up the loose ends, to take care of the details, that they might anoint the body of our Lord. Yes – they were still there ministering to Jesus.

As they got there to do the jobs that have to be done (as was so often the case) this time they found there was no job to do. So these women standing in the background... Not only were they there to stand and identify themselves with Jesus Christ as he died. They were the first to see and the first to bare witness of his resurrection from the dead.

They were the bearers of the news to the disciples that Jesus had risen. Their lips were the first to shout out the message of the gospel that we still preach today – that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

That he is not dead. That they did not conquer him. That the power of God had raised Jesus up and that yes the things that Jesus had preached to them day by day and year by year were true and real!

And yes he is the son of God and yes there is a hope and future for those who love him and believe him.

And this is how it happens so often... Even when the Lord blesses us in every church assembly as we preach the gospel in our small way in our small corner of the vineyard that the Lord has been gracious to give us.

Even so it's those of us who are taking care of the details, those of us who are getting up early in the mornings to tie up the loose ends. Those who wash the cups and sweep the floors who are often the ones who are there on the spot to give witness to the power and the glory of God.

They're often the ones who bare the news about the wonderful things God has done.

So what's the message?

Be one of them!

Be inspired by these unsung people. These ordinary folks who by doing only what they know to do played a part in the very history of Biblical events.

Rhoda

Scripture

Acts 12:1 - 17

Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth [his] hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

And when he had apprehended him, he put [him] in prison, and delivered [him] to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon [him], and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from [his] hands.

And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and [from] all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

And when he had considered [the thing], he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda. And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate.

And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel.

But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened [the door], and saw him, they were astonished.

But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place.

----- Scripture -----

What was Rhoda doing? It almost seems like a silly story because she wouldn't open the gate and then ran off to tell the others and they wouldn't believe her.

What was she doing there?

Who was she anyway?

Well she was praying ALL night!

That's what she was doing. She had left her home wherever she lived and she had gone to the house where they were all gathered because Peter was in prison and they were afraid for his life and she was there praying all night so that God would deliver him.

And then God did deliver him.

She was on hand doing what needed to be done when it needed doing. Again another ordinary person, perhaps she had difficulties getting there, perhaps she had earlier prepared meals, did the washing up, put the kids to bed or whatever.

Yet she was still there praying all night and as a result we are now talking about her almost 2000 years later.

Well that's all I've got for you in this booklet. I do hope that you are now inspired by these ordinary people.

They were bit players in the history of mankind. Not one of them had any status or standing or any value in the eyes of the community. They were just humble, ordinary folk.

But they displayed great courage, faith, devotion, discipline and commitment and by doing so they were used by God to do wonderful things. They were witnesses to some of the pivotal events that happened to mankind.

There's no reason why we can not aspire to do the same and do the things that they have done. To be full of courage with our witness and our testimony.

- ◆ To love our God and our faith more than anything else like Shiprah and Puah.
- ◆ To be devoted spiritual person and serve the Lord in fastings and prayers like Anna the prophetess.
- ◆ To be taking care of the details and working behind the scenes like Salome.
- ◆ To not deny. To withstand the insults and the disapproval of the whole nation as Salome and the other women that were with her.
- ◆ And to be in prayer and about the place when we're needed like Rhoda.

We can be the same. We can be inspired by these and other unsung heroes of the Bible.

Amen.

Our Lord Jesus Christ Is The Same Yesterday, Today & Forever And In These Modern Times Miracles Still Happen ...



A special thanks to Our Lord Jesus Christ for his powerful healing hand which enabled us to have children and to my church [The Revival Fellowship](#) for all their prayers and support...

Let me explain...

My name is Allan Wilson and in December 1986 I became a born again Christian, I was [baptized](#) by full immersion and received God's [Holy Spirit](#) with the Bible evidence of [speaking in tongues](#)...

I once was a compulsive gambler, however through the power of Jesus Christ my life changed dramatically, with gambling, smoking cigarettes, drinking alcohol and swearing all ceasing within the first few weeks of my conversion...

In 1990 my wife Michele was also born again.

After 10 years of marriage we seemed never likely to be able to have children, however through the loving prayers of our brothers and sisters in the Lord we were blessed with our first born son Samuel in 1995...

It was then the doctor discovered she had very advanced endometrioses (a condition which can cause infertility and miscarriages), despite this medical condition the Lord was doubly gracious, with Michele giving birth to twins Benjamin and Nathan in 1998...

To learn more about our fellowship click [here](#)

