CHAPTER VIII

CONCLUSION
The various women discussed in the foregoing chapters are some of the best examples presented in the Holy Bible to prove the point that the faithful always prosper. We come across in the Holy Bible who are either blessed or cursed depending upon whether they have faith or not. Some of them are presented in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old Testament</th>
<th>New Testament</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women Blessed</td>
<td>Women Blessed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women Cursed</td>
<td>Women Cursed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1) Manoah's wife  
2) Hannah  
3) The Shunamite woman  
1) Lot's wife  
2) Delilah  
3) Jezebel  
1) The women with an issue of blood  
1) Sapphira  
2) Mary Magdalene  
3) Martha and Mary  
4) The Samaritan woman
Old Testament Characters

Lot's Wife

Lot was Abraham's nephew: "He was not a man of so noble a soul, but was greatly influenced by the stronger mind of his Uncle Abraham. He was sincere, no doubt, and is justly called righteous Lot, but he was fitter to be a follower than a leader." Lot's wife shared in her husband's errors when he decided to live in Sodom and Gomorrah which was the most wicked place about which God says:

Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;

I will go down now, and see whether they have done now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come into me; and if not, I will know.

(Geten. 18 : 20-21)

When the angels visited Lot, his wife herself helped to entertain them. She received the merciful warning to escape as well as her husband, and she was urged as much as he to flee from the wrath so near at hand.
And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides! son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place:

For we will destroy this place because the cry if them is waxen great before the face of the Lord; and the Lord hath sent to us to destroy it. (Gen 19 : 12-13)

She was the wife of a man who, with all his faults, was a righteous man. She was united to him in the closest possible bonds. She dwelt in tents with holy Abraham and was a sharer in all the privileges of the separated people. Yet she perished:

But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. (Gen 19 : 26)

She believed the message that came to her about the destruction of the city. She decided to leave the house to follow her husband. She left the city gate to reach the open plain along with her husband. But there her faith became weak: "She was willing for a while to run with him, following the example, she did so far a considerable distance, till she
began to think over what she was doing, and to consider what she was leaving, and then she slackened her pace and lingered behind. Remember, then, that she did go part of the way toward safety, and yet she perished."\(^2\)

She could not tear herself away from the world since she had been in it, loved it, and delighted in it: "Flight without so much as looking back was demanded of her, but this was too much; she did look back, and thus proved that she has sufficient presumption in her heart to defy God's command, and risk her all, to give a lingering love-glance at the condemned and guilty world. By that glance she perished."\(^3\)

Next she disbelieved what had been told her. She saw the sun rising. She saw the bright dawning and everything lit up with it. And hence she did not really believe that the city was going to be destroyed:

The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar. (Gen 19:23)

There was no real faith in her heart. Hence she disobeyed the law of her safety and turned toward Sodom. She doubted the truth of God's word though she had received the angles in her house, seen them blind the wicked mob around

138
her door, heard their majestic words of persuasion. Thus she perished in the very act of sin. She perished with the same doom as that which happened to the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah, but with slight difference, that is she perished at the gates of Zoar. In the instant she turned her head she was a pillar of salt and was given no space for repentance. The result of her unfaithful nature on one hand perished her in the very act of sin and on the other hand made her two daughters prostitutes:

Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father. (Gen 19:32)

Manoah's wife

Every soul has some desire. Manoah's wife too has a soul with a desire to have a child. She was a barren wife, but a believing woman. She was a prudent, gracious wife. She not only had clear perceptions, but she had capital reasoning faculties:

And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah, and his wife was barren, and bare not.

(Judges 13:2)
She was full of faith, probably more than her husband. Her faith touched the Lord God Almighty and hence He sent one of his angels to deliver a wonderful message to her. "you are going to conceive and bear a son" (Judges 13:3) was the message. Since she had faith, she believed in the message and followed all the rules she should observe for the care of her son. The angel of the Lord appeared to her and said,

Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.

(Judges 13:3)

The angel of the Lord not only gave the happiest information to her, but also gave all the strict rules she should observe during her pregnancy and after that.

Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing:

For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.

(Judges 13: 4-5)
It was she who got the precious promise. And it was because of her the angel of the Lord appeared for the second time. And it was because of her the angel of the Lord repeated the message to Manoah: "She was the better one of the two in sound judgment. She was the weaker vessel by nature, but she was the stronger-believer, and probably that was why the angel was sent to her, for the angels are best pleased to speak with those who have faith, and if they have he pick of their company, and the wife has more faith than the husband, they will visit the wife sooner than her spouse, for they love to take God's messages to those who will receive them with confidence."4

When Manoah heard the message, a sort of fear started in him. He told his wife that they would surely die because they saw God. He lost the reasoning power. But his wife gave him courage by arguing the matter most intelligibly. Her argument was that if God wanted them to die, He would have not given them such a precious promise, and would not have accepted their sacrifice. Her answer to her husband's statement "We shall surely die, because we have seen God" was:

If the Lord were pleased to kill us, he would not have received a burnt offering and a meat
offering at our hands, neither would he have shewed us all these things, nor would as at this time have told us such things as these.

(Judges 13:23)

That was her faith in God. Her faith also supported her husband. Manoah was filled with astonishment and dismay. When he exclaimed, "We shall surely die because we have seen God," her faith argued excellently and proved that what her husband thought was mere weakness in faith:

She was full of faith, evidently, and so when her husband tremulously said, "We shall surely die," she did not believe in such a distrustful inference. Moreover, though some say that women cannot reason, yet here was a woman whose arguments were logical and overwhelming. Certain it is that women's perceptions are generally far clearer than men's reasonings: they look at once into a truth, while we are hunting for our spectacles. Their instincts are generally as safe as our reasonings, and therefore when they have in addition a clear logical mind they make the wisest of counselors."5
Thus this faithful woman with her excellent argument became the mother of a powerful man who later saved the Israelites following the Lord's command.

And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him.

And the spirit of the Lord began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol. (Judges 13: 24-25)

Hannah

Hannah was a woman of a sorrowful spirit, since she was barren. She was the wife of Elkanah. His other wife's name was Peninnah. Peninnah had children but Hannah had no children.

And he had two wives the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. (1 Sam. 1:2)

Hannah suffered the disgrace of sterility. What made the situation even more heartbreaking was the fact that Peninnah constantly ridiculed Hannah's childlessness:
And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the Lord had shut up her womb. (1 Sam. 1:6)

Every year Elkanah and his family travelled to the tabernacle in Shiloh to offer sacrifices to Yahweh. Hannah was especially depressed during this time of year. While many Hebrews were happily bringing thanksgiving offerings to the tabernacle, Hannah felt as if she were abandoned. She suffered such humiliation that at times she could scarcely eat her meals:

And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the Lord, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.

(1 Sam. 1:7)

Hannah was a lovable woman. Her husband greatly delighted in her. That she had no children was to him no depreciation of her value. He said to her: "Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? am not I better to thee than ten sons?" (1 Sam.1:8)

Hannah was a very gentle woman. She did not answer when Peninnah with her harsh, and haughty and arrogant speech vexed her sore to make her fret. When Peninnah provoked her
at the annual festival, she stole away to the sanctuary to weep alone. Her sorrow drove her into much communion with her God:

O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head. (1 Sam. 1:11)

Hannah was praying so earnestly and silently that Eli, the high priest, thought maybe she was drunk. And Hannah did not answer him tartly. She most effectually cleared herself, and plainly refuted the harsh imputation. She did not tell him that he was ungenerous in having thought so harshly, nor was there anger in her grief:

No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have pared out my soul before the Lord: count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto.

(1 Sam. 1: 15-16)
Hannah was a godly woman though she was stricken with barrenness:

As we read the chapter, we are thoroughly certified that her heart was right with God. We cannot raise any question about the sincerity of her prayer, or her prevalence of it. We do not doubt for a moment the truthfulness of her holy joy, the confidence of her faith, or the strength of her consecration. She was one who feared God above many, an eminently gracious woman, and yet "a woman of a sorrowful spirit."  

After listening to Hannah's explanation Eli comforted her saying, "Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him," for which Hannah replied," Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight" (1 Sam. 1: 17-18). "So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad" (1 Sam. 1:18) proves that she was a faithful woman. She had not yet obtained the blessing, but she was persuaded of the promise, and embraced it. By faith she held a man child:
Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked him of the Lord."

(1 Sam. 1:20)

Every mother wishes to keep her children about her. It is natural that she wishes to see them often. But Hannah said,

I will not go up until the child is weaned; then I will bring him, that he may appear before the Lord and stay there for ever.

(1 Sam. 1:22)

Within a year, Hannah bore a son and named him Samuel. When Samuel was weaned, Hannah brought him to Shiloh to put into practice her sworn to God that if He answered her prayer, she would dedicate her child to His service: "It must have torn her heart in half to leave her little boy behind to serve in the tabernacle. But she kept her promise."

Oh, my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord.
For this boy I prayed, and the Lord has given me my petition which I asked of Him.

So I have also dedicated him to the Lord; as long as he lives he is dedicated to the Lord. (1 Sam. 1:26-28)

Hannah longed to see her child serving him as a Levite in the house of the Lord. Samuel began to minister before the Lord and assisted Eli in the care of the temple. Hannah brought a new robe to Samuel each year when they went up to Shiloh for the annual sacrifice. Eli blessed the couple saying,

May the Lord give you children from this woman in place of thee one she dedicated to the Lord. (1 Sam. 2:20)

Hannah was a highly favoured woman. She gained grace to be greatly favoured by being greatly sorrowing. Her sorrow prepared her to receive further blessings:

And the Lord visited Hannah; and she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. (1 Sam. 2:21)
Instead of being greedy or possessive, Hannah was willing to consecrate to God even that which she treasured most.

Delilah

The name has been identified as meaning both "flirtatious" and "devotee," the latter suggesting religious prostitution as her role. The name is connected with the Hebrew word for "night," ldyelah. Delilah didn't have faith in Yahweh. Moreover she entangled Samson in her wiles, who was blessed by Yahweh:

And the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him in Mahanehdan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

(Judges 13:25)

Even after knowing that Samson got enormous strength from God, she handed over him to Philistine Lords just for eleven hundred pieces of silver:

After this it came about that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.

And the Lords of the Philistines came up to her, and said to her, "Entice him, and see
When Delilah saw that he had told her all that was in his heart, she sent and called the lords of the Philistines, saying: "Come up once more, for he has told me all that is in his heart. (Judges 16:18)

Delilah, who was disloyal to her love, betrayed Samson and stood a cause for his destruction.

Jezebel

Jezebel was wife of Ahab, king of Samaria. Ahab liked a vineyard and wanted to own it either by buying it or by replacing it with another vineyard. Naboth the Jezreelite, to whom this vineyard belonged, refused to give to the king by saying that it was his father's inheritance. Ahab, though the king and though he had every power to occupy it by hook or crook, remained silent. But his wife Jezebel tempted him to use his powers as a king:

Do you now reign over Israel? Arise, eat bread, and let your heart be joyful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite. (1 Kings 21:7)
She wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed them with his seal, and sent letters to the elders and to the nobles who were living with Naboth in his city. She asked the elders and the nobles, in those letters, to proclaim a fast, seat Naboth at the head of the people, and stone him to death by testifying against him saying that he cursed God and the king, using two worthless men. Her plot shows both Ahab's easygoing attitude to his responsibilities and the corruption of local government.

Everything went on as Jezebel wished. She, after the death of Naboth, victoriously asked her husband:

Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth, the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead. (1 Kings 21:15)

The Lord almighty surely created woman to be helpmate to man but not in vice. For this act of Jezebel, both Ahab and Jezebel received curse from God:

In the place where the dogs licked up the blood of Naboth the dogs shall lick up your blood, ever yours....
Behold, I will bring evil upon you, and will utterly sweep you away, and will cut off from Ahab every male, both bond and free in Israel; ....

The dogs shall eat Jezebel in the district of Jezreel. (1 Kings 21: 21-23)

It is true that Jezebel helped her vexed husband. But the way she followed was not appealing to God. As a result both received painful curse from God. Though Ahab received forgiveness from God later, by his repentance, he remained responsible for this cruel, malicious act. The tragedy is that like Eve who was blamed as responsible for the fall of Adam, Jezebel stood responsible for Ahab's blunder:

Surely there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do evil in the sight of the Lord, because Jezebel his wife incited him.

(1 Kings 21:25)

The Shunamite Woman

This woman reminds us of the reference from Old Testament Proverbs 11:25: "He who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."
Shunem was about 20 miles from Carnet where Elisha regularly visited. On the request of a prominent woman of Shunem, Elisha turned in there to eat food and rested in a separate upper room which was prepared only for him. The woman had requested her husband to prepare a room for Elisha:

Please, let us make a little walled upper chamber and let us set a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; and it shall be, when he comes to us, that he can turn in there. (2 Kings 4:10)

Once Elisha asked this Shunamite woman through his servant Gehazi if she needs "any help":

Behold, you have been careful for us with all this care; what can I do for you? Would you be spoken for to the King or to the captain of the army? (2 Kings 4:13)

But she refused saying "I live among my own people" (2 Kings 4:13), which may mean that she is satisfied with her home among her own people and need nothing more for a better life:
The woman is happy among my own people, showing the traditional contentment and solidarity of the tribal community.

Knowing that this Shunamite woman is barren, Elisha promised her that she would embrace a child the next year in the same reason. Her desire might have been to have a child. She trembled with joy at the thought of such a blessing and said:

No, my lord, O man of God, do not lie to your maidservant. (2 Kings, 4:16)

It is difficult to understand the course of time sometimes. As the boy grew, he went to join his father in the fields watching the reapers at work and suddenly said to his father, "My head, my head." And the boy was taken to his mother, and died on her lap. Then this woman went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door behind him and called to her husband and said,

Please send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys, that I may run to the man of God and return. (2 Kings 4:22)
The fact is that she did not reveal to her husband that the child was dead. Charles G. Martin says regarding the preparation of room for Elisha, "The well-to-do woman showed hospitality which deepened to awe as she recognized him as a holy man of God. The discussions with her husband is a happy homely scene, though her later reluctance to tell him plainly of the child death suggests that he was less keen to be identified with Elisha than she was."  

She knew that her husband could not do anything and she trusted in the Lord and so hurried to inform the Lord's man about the death of her child. Her faith is revealed in her quickness to reach Elisha:

- Drive and go forward; do not slow down the pace for me unless I tell you. (2 Kings, 4:28)

Her faith was so strong that she did not leave Elisha until he started himself to see the child:

- As the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you. (2 Kings, 4:30)
Elisha hurried to his room and closed the door. She waited below patiently, lifting her eyes to God in earnest prayer. The assurance of God's goodness gave her peace, in spite of her heavy sorrow, just because of her strong and real faith in Him. Her faith gave her the child back.

New Testament Characters
A Woman with an issue of Blood

There was a woman who had been suffering from an issue of blood twelve years:

And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any.

(Luke 8:43)

For twelve long years she had been ailing with a chronic blood disorder. She suffered from a very grievous malady that drained away her life. She for twelve years continued to seek after a cure from one physician or another. At last she heard of Jesus of Nazareth who cured sick people, and even the blind and demented ones:
She said, "If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole." (Mark 5:28)

She had great faith in God; hence she touched His garment from behind and was healed as soon as she touched it. "When at last she had found the true physician, she plunged into the thick of the crowd to touch Him by some means or other. She asked nobody to intercede for her, but with a dauntless courage. Worthy to be associated with her deep humility she forced her way through the press to reach the healing Christ. She displayed intense energy and unconquerable spirit in pursuit of health."10

Her faith was great but lacked courage. When Christ asked who touched His garment,

And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately. (Luke 8:47)

The fact that this woman was healed only through faith is clearly said in Luke 8:48:
Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.

Spurgeon observes,

Every person who comes into contact with Jesus by the touch of faith will partake of His healing power. She knew this and shut her eyes to all other considerations. She lays no stress upon any mode of touching. No, "if I touch but his clothes," not embrace Him, nor grasp Him, hold Him, wrestle with Him; no, she believes that any sort of contact will answer the purpose.\footnote{11}

She no sooner touched than she was healed. The fountain of her blood was dried up, and health beamed in her. She felt that the virtue to heal was all in Him and not in her touch. She knew that His power could master every difficulty of her case and that the result did not depend upon the mode of her touch but on Him alone:

Alone immediately her issue of blood stanched.

(Luke 8:44)
George F. Root's spiritual poem on this woman runs as follows:

She only touch'd the hem of His garment
as to His side she stole,
Amid the crowd that gather'd around Him,
and straightway she was whole.
"O touch the hem of His garment,
and thou, too, shalt be free!
His saving pow'r this very hour
shall give new life to thee.

Mary Magdalene

"There is no record of Mary Magdalene's parentage, marital status, or age. "Magdalene" denotes her hometown, Magdala, a Galilean coast city. The Bible reports that Christ delivered Mary from seven demons and thus won her lifelong love and devotion. Contrary to what some surmise, there is no biblical evidence that Mary ever practised it.

Following her conversion, Mary joined the women who accompanied Jesus and the disciples in their travels, providing for the groups financial needs out of their own resources. This suggests that Mary may not have had home obligations and probably enjoyed some independent income.
Mary Magdalene was known by all to be demon possessed. As a result of the possession of demon she might have lived with uncontrolled anger and violent outbursts, often screaming and thrashing about. Her condition was hopeless. But Jesus, the saviour of the world, reclaimed her from her shameful, sinful state. She then became one of Jesus' devoted followers and joined the other women who stayed near the Lord to offer whatever assistance they could.

When Jesus faced his ultimate humiliation and suffering, Mary's fearless loyalty stood out in boldest relief. When almost every other disciple had run away in terror, Mary stood with Christ's mother and several other women at the crucifixion. As Jesus hovered near death that Friday afternoon, the women edged closer to the cross. When he died, Mary followed those who carried him to his tomb and memorized the tomb's location.

Early on Sunday morning Mary and two other women brought additional burial spices to Christ's tomb. They came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb. (John 20:1)
Mary Magdalene ran to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved and said,

They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him. (John 20:2)

The two disciples came running to the tomb, saw the linen wrappings lying there and went to their own homes.

But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb. (John 20:11)

She saw two angels in white, sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying, and answered to their question why she was weeping:

Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him. (John 20:13)

It is a great thing that the disciples who were always with Jesus and who followed him sincerely could not get the opportunity to see the angels. But Mary Magdalene
got the chance even to see Christ first of all after his resurrection. After answering the angels, she turned round and to her surprise Jesus was standing there. But she could not recognize him and thinking that he might be the gardener, answered his question what she was weeping for and whom she was seeking for:

Sir, if you have carried Him away; tell me
where you have laid Him, and I will take
Him away. (John 20:15)

Some ask if she was so fond of Jesus why could she not recognize him. We can justify her by saying that her eyes might have become weak as a result of weeping so severely. Whatever it was she recognized Him after being called by Jesus as "Mary!" and said "Rabboni!" which means "Teacher" in Hebrew.

Mary rushed to the disciples and exclaimed that she'd actually seen Jesus. It was a great honour to be the first person to whom Christ appeared. She was chosen to proclaim that the Christ who died for her was now alive for ever.

"Though in grave danger from angry Jewish leaders and edgy Roman soldiers, Mary stayed with Jesus during his
dying hours. She was there at the tomb though Christ was no longer present to approve. This woman who loved Jesus so devotedly both in his life and in his death was still there to meet him following his great triumph over death."12

Thus a formerly demon possessed woman became the first person to announce Christ's resurrection.

Martha & Mary

The fact that even siblings differ in their characteristics though they share the same blood is proved through the characters of Martha and Mary, two sisters of Bethany. They had a brother, Lazarus. "Mary and Martha are often contrasted - Mary as a devout learner and Martha as the bustling, morose house-keeper. This may be an unfair contrast. The Bible tells us that both sisters learned at the feet of Jesus."13

Once when Jesus came to their house, Mary sat at his feet asking questions to deepen her knowledge of him. Martha scurried anxiously from one task to the next: "She wanted to have a fine entertainment for Christ. She had out all the best dishes, and she would have all the repast served in the daintiest manner. She would have nothing put on the table but what was the best of the best for such a one as her Lord."14
Martha got her mind troubled and her temper irritated when she saw Mary at Jesus' feet and complained,

Lord do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me? (Luke 10:40)

Then Jesus said,

Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things;

but only a few things are necessary, really only one, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

(Luke 10:41-42)

Martha felt deep sorrow at her brother's death but wasn't in tears when she met Jesus. On the other hand, Mary fell at Jesus' feet and wept inconsolably:

Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. (John 11:32)

John 11:21 shows that even Martha said the same thing to Jesus. But the doubt in Martha is exposed in John
11:39 when Jesus asked to remove the stone that covered Lazarus' tomb:

Lord, by this time there will be a stench,
for he has been dead four days.

The scriptures tell us Jesus loved both Martha and Mary though their personalities were different. Martha with her outgoing hospitality and Mary in her silent worship cherished Jesus with complete sincerity.

Herodias & Salome

Herodias and her daughter Salome warn us that faithlessness in God leads us to terrible sin. Herodias was King Philip's wife. Herodias married Philip's brother Herod, after his death. John the baptist condemned this act of Herod for which Herodias decided to take revenge on John and got him into prison. In her anger she completely forgot what the Lord said about revenge:

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. (Rom. 12:19)
Herod celebrated his birthday and gave a banquet for his lords and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. Herodias, who was waiting for a chance to take revenge on John the baptist made her daughter Salome dance in that function and ask John's head on a golden plate as a gift from Herod.

And she came in straightway with haste unto the King, and asked, saying, I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist. (Mark 6:25)

Herodias committed a blunder. She did not care the Lord's commands. She did not trust in the power of God's word. As a result she became a sinner. Not only that, she made her daughter a sinner to conceal her own sin.

The Samaritan Woman

Spurgeon observes,

Jews hated Samaritans as aliens and heretics who dared to call Jacob their father and to believe themselves orthodox. Jews and Samaritans were much alike, and you know the sects that approach nearest to each other
usually reserve their most bitter hatred for their next of kin. They will tolerate those who are far removed from them because they are altogether in the darkness of error and so are somewhat excusable. . . . This woman was one of those Samaritan heretics who had dared to set up an opposition temple to the one at Jerusalem and say that they also were the people of God.  

This Samaritan woman was asked by Jesus Christ for some water while passing through Samaria. Christ did not get angry at her when she refused to give water recalling the enmity between Jews and Samaritans. Moreover she was blessed to have water springing up to eternal life. The greatness of this woman is that she did not lie about her past life. When Jesus asked her to call her husband, she said "I have no husband" (John 4:17).  

When Jesus revealed that the man with whom she was living was not her husband and that she had five husbands, she believed that He might be a prophet: "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet" (John 4:19).  

Her faith in the coming God is revealed in verse 25:
I know that Messiah is coming; when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.

(John 4:25)

When Jesus said that it is he who is expected to come, the Samaritan woman trusted and ran into the city and told the people there,

Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it? (John 4:29)

We can see two things in her statement to the people of Samaria. First there is invitation (Come, see a man). Secondly there is an argument (this is not the Christ, it is?). She became the messenger of Christ in a way. She not only had faith in the Lord herself, but also created faith in the people in a way. As a result,

And from that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all the things that I have done." (John 4:39)

She achieved this only through faith. Spurgeon says "... when in faith you attempt what you cannot alone accomplish,
God will be at your back, and in your weakness His strength shall be made clear."  

There is a poem by an unknown author which runs as follows:

"Give me to drink, I pray."
He saw the bitter, broken heart.
And longed to impart His everlasting rest.

Refreshing she sought - and found Him who is the Fount of Life;
The true and living Way.

Within her soul gushed forth that hour a spring of hope divine,
And into her poor darkened heart the light of heav'n did shine.

Sapphira

Sapphira's character shows us how greediness and unfaithfulness lead to destruction. Sapphira and her husband sold a piece of their property:

And with great power the apostles were giving witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.
For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales,

and lay them at the apostles' feet; and they would be distributed to each, as any had need. (Acts 4:33-35)

But Sapphira and her husband were overcome by weakness. They could no longer be faithful to the apostles and in a way to God. As Eve disobeyed God's command as

When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

(Gen. 3:6)

As a result they were cursed, removed from the Paradise and thrown to the earth where God increased their troubles. In the same way Sapphira and her husband were attracted by the money which they got on selling their land and hid some of it without using their commonsense that God
is omnipresent and can detect anything. Even then God gave them another chance to mend their behaviour but in vain. When Peter asked Ananias to tell the truth about money they hid he did not tell him. As a result, he received curse from God in the form of death. The same thing happened to Sapphira. Peter asked Sapphira who did not know about her husband's death,

Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?" Her answer was "Yes that was the price. (Acts 5:8)

Peter then said "Why is it that you have agreed together to put the spirit of the Lord to the best? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they shall carry you out as well. (Acts 5:9)

Then she breathed her last and was buried beside her husband. Sapphira pretended to be faithful to God but in fact she was faithless in him and thus she behaved in an unfaithful way and received her disastrous end, death:

And she fell immediately at his feet, and breathed her last; and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. (Acts 5:10)
In this way all the above mentioned as well as other women of different nature, character, and behaviour we come across The Holy Bible inform us what a woman is, how a woman should be, and what rewards a woman gets basing on the degree of her faith in God:

Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain,
But a woman who fears the Lord,
she shall be praised. (Prov. 31:30)
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