

A Woman's Touch

by Genelda Woggon

A woman's touch has traditionally meant "a little something extra to bring grace, charm and beauty to a situation" - a decorative option. However, as is so often in life, the decorative of one era becomes the essential for another. In our age of "high tech" that often seems to impersonalize itself into oblivion, we hear prophetic voices calling for necessary balance of "high touch" to keep us human and keep us alive.

It is to bring this necessary touch, incorporating the decorative, that I believe women are uniquely called in our 21st century world. It is the feminine quality embodied in a woman, but not exclusively of her - as God is generous in Her Creation and has left this important quality hidden in many forms.

It is a quality that balances the relational with the rational, the intuitive with the cognitive, compassion with competition. It brings heart and head together within an individual as well as between people.

It is a quality that is formed in the psychological dimension of both men and women; but it makes itself a native home in the unique biological functions of women and becomes expressive in ways that model itself for others. This quality of which I speak is one that literally touches the world with a healing power - a mother's kiss, if you will.

It is a pattern that has repeated itself from the beginning of time in conception, in childbirth, in nurture. It is the pattern God chose to become Incarnate. It is the pattern of spirituality - of how God chooses to become incarnate in us - one of mission and how we become the presence of the Incarnate Christ for the world.

An internal biological clock gives a woman the unique sense of timing necessary for the whole process of childbearing - from beginning to end. Controlled by a clock beyond and within, a woman learns to be in tune by an intuitive sense. We see this too in scripture. A young woman from Galilee, attuned to the God of the Universe, had a timely inner knowing that the Savior whom Israel had sought was what she was to bring forth in her child. It was another woman that continued to mark the timely turns in Jesus' earthly ministry when she met him at the well in Samaria. And another woman who anointed his feet and announced the good news of the resurrection.

Today, too, women are called to bring an intuitive, personal and compassionate touch. A call to cause the world to turn in a new way.

Open, empty and prepared describes the womb in which new life will grow. Open and empty, too, describes the tomb from which our Lord will be placed. Open and vulnerable, empty and dispossessed - we await your coming, Lord, our lives to bless.

Only through openness can unity be expressed. God becomes flesh and takes our humanity upon himself. Creation bounds in His birth and re-creation waits as we journey toward Jerusalem. New life springs forth from a Holy Child!

How do you give birth to God within you at Christmas as well as Holy Week?

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