

# Sojourner Truth: Ain't I A Woman?

"That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman? Look at me! Look at my arm! I have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man-when I could get it-and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman? I have borne thirteen children, and seen them all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me! And ain't I a woman?

That they talk about this thing in the head; what's this they call it? ("Intellect," someone whispers.) That's it honey. What's that got to do with women's rights or Negro's rights? If my cup won't hold but a pint, and yours holds a quart, wouldn't you be mean not to let me have my little half-measure full?

Then that little man in black there, he says women can't have as much rights as men, 'cause Christ wasn't a woman!' Where did your Christ come from? Where did your Christ come from? From God and a woman! Man had nothing to do with Him.

If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again! And now they is asking to do it, the men better let them.

Obliged to you for hearing me, and no, old Sojourner ain't got nothing more to say."

## Questions for Discussion:

1. What is the main message of her speech?
2. List three particular points Sojourner makes in her speech.
3. Is she effective in getting her message across? Why? What effective speaking techniques does she use to get her point across?
4. What events from her life had the most effect on Sojourner's actions? Why?
5. Would this be a person you would be friends with? Why or why not?

