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Women in the Gospels



- **Women as Jesus' Disciples in the Gospels**

Luke's Gospel (ch.8) makes it clear that Jesus had many women followers:

“With him went the Twelve and certain women who had been cured of evil spirits and illnesses, Mary called Magdalene from whom seven demons had gone out .. Joanna .. Susanna .. and many others who provided for them out of their own resources”

Although it is clear that no woman was specifically chosen by Jesus as one of the Twelve of his 'inner circle'



- Women are described as his followers at the foot of the Cross

“.. the same women who followed Jesus from Galilee and looked after him”

(Mtt.27),

“ .. And many other women who had come up to Jerusalem with him” (Mk.15),

“so also did the women who had accompanied him from Galilee ..” (Lk.23)

- Women are first on the scene after the Resurrection (Mtt.28// Mk.16// Lk.24// Jn.20)

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- **Jesus' Attitude to Women**
- **Women are included in Jesus' parables**
 - The Wedding Attendants (Mtt.25) - The Lost Coin (Lk.15)
 - The Widow and Judge (Lk.18) - The Yeast (Mtt.13//Lk.13)
- **Women are still expected to undertake a traditional domestic role**
 - Peter's mother-in-law waits on Jesus (Mtt.8// Mk.1// Lk.4)
"she got up and began to serve them"
 - Martha was serving on Jesus **"distracted with all the serving"** (Lk.10)
- **Jesus is shown as compassionate to women and impressed by their faith**
 - The woman with a haemorrhage – faith (Mtt.9//Mk.5// Lk.8)
 - The Canaanite woman's sick daughter – faith (Mtt.15)
 - The Disreputable woman – faith and love (Lk.7)
 - The Widow of Nain **"when he saw her he felt sorry for her 'Don't cry'"** (Lk.7)
 - The Crippled woman in the synagogue (Lk.13)
 - The Adulteress (Jn.8)
 - The Samaritan woman at Jacob's well (Jn.4)
 - His relationship with Martha and Mary

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- **Jesus and Martha and Mary**
- **John's Gospel**
 - Tells us that Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus (ch.11)
 - Martha and Mary's conversation with Jesus over their brother's death indicates the closeness of friendship
 - Tells us that the anointing of Jesus at Bethany was done by Mary (ch.11 **AND** 12, why the particular emphasis?) **prior** to Palm Sunday
- **Luke's Gospel**
 - Tells us that Jesus stayed at the house of a woman called Martha who had a sister called Mary (ch.10) – but no indication is given of any particular friendship
- **Matthew and Mark's Gospel**
 - In their account of the anointing at Bethany (Mtt.26, Mk.14) they do not give Mary's name – Why? This despite recording Jesus' words:
“In truth I tell you, wherever the Gospel is proclaimed throughout the world, what she has done will be told as well, in remembrance of her”
(compare this to John's emphasis)
 - N.B.** Luke gives an account of a disreputable woman anointing Jesus (ch.7). This is not the same anointing as done at Bethany although the name of the host, Simon, is the same. Luke does not record an anointing at Bethany.

