

Women who met Jesus

FEB 17

The Woman Jesus had Compassion On
No Homework

FEB 24

The First Woman to Meet Jesus
(Mary, Mother of Jesus)

MAR 3

Jesus Met Her at the Well
(The Samaritan Woman)

MAR 10

A Home for Jesus
(Mary & Martha)

MAR 17

The Woman Who Followed Jesus
(Mary Magdalene)

MAR 24

The Woman Jesus Rescued
(The Woman Caught in Adultery)

APR 7

The Women Who Influenced a Youth for Jesus
(Lois & Eunice)

APR 14

Women Who Served Jesus
(Dorcas, Lydia & Priscilla)



MARY: AT THE BIRTH OF JESUS

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the Old Testament the Lord spoke to His people through the prophets. Malachi was used to communicate God's final prophecy¹ of the Old Testament. This prophecy was followed by four hundred years of silence, where there were no messages from God to direct His people. When these years were past, God began to move by His Spirit in the lives of chosen people.

Hundreds of prophecies had been given to Israel regarding the Messiah, Jesus, who would come to redeem His people from sin. The Messiah was likely to come at anytime, but the religious leaders of the day distracted them from recognizing Christ their King.

Yet, the faithful waited and hoped for their Redeemer. One such person was found in the region of Galilee; a humble young girl named Mary who had long been looking for the fulfillment of the prophecies. She found favor before the LORD and was chosen by God to give birth to the Savior. Though a virgin, she willingly accepted the gift bestowed upon her with great humility and gratitude. Although sorrow would pierce her heart, *Blessed* would be the crowning title she would wear; and her faithfulness would distinguish her from all other women.

Elisabeth, her cousin, and Anna the prophetess were godly women in the life of Mary. They served Him with a whole heart. They offered Mary spiritual support and spiritual encouragement.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

For with God nothing shall be impossible (Luke 1:37).

¹ prophecy: God's truth foretold by holy men of God who spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

Names Given to Mary

Virgin	<p>. . . <i>Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son . . .</i> (Matthew 1:23).</p> <p><i>Virgin</i> in Greek means - unknown or a maiden, an unmarried daughter. <i>Virgin</i> in Hebrew is <i>almah</i>, a lass (as veiled or private): damsel, maid; from the root word <i>elem</i>: something kept out of sight. Mary was the fulfillment of the prophecy concerning the virgin whom God had promised would bring forth the Savior (Isaiah 7:14).</p>
Mary	<p>. . . <i>To a virgin espoused [engaged] to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary</i> (Luke 1:27).</p> <p><i>Mary's</i> name is of Hebrew origin, it comes from the root word <i>Marah</i> meaning - bitterness. We will learn that later in Mary's life she experienced deep suffering and sorrow.</p>
Highly Favored	<p><i>And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured...</i> (Luke 1:28a).</p> <p><i>Favoured</i> in Greek means - to grace, to endue with special honor. God showed His favor towards Mary by choosing her to be the mother of Christ the Savior.</p>
Blessed	<p>. . . <i>blessed art thou among women</i> (Luke 1:28b).</p> <p><i>Blessed</i> in Greek means - to speak well of (religiously); to bless (thank or to invoke a benediction upon), prosper, praise. Mary was blessed above all women.</p>
Handmaiden	<p><i>For He hath regarded the low estate of His handmaiden . . .</i> (Luke 1:48).</p> <p><i>Handmaiden</i> in Greek means - female slave. Mary regarded herself as a handmaiden, servant of God.</p>

SECTION 1 - Prophecy Fulfilled

This study begins with Elisabeth, Mary's cousin. Elisabeth's name means *God is my oath*. She was a woman of great faith and a worshipper of God, chosen to bear a son under miraculous circumstances. In Isaiah 40:3, the prophecy described him as, *the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness*. He was to herald the coming Savior. A *herald* always came into a city prior to the king, announcing his coming so that the people could prepare for his arrival. Elisabeth was also chosen by God to be a spiritual encouragement to Mary.

READ Luke 1:5-25.

1. Who was Elisabeth (v. 5)? _____²

2. What spiritual characteristics did Elisabeth possess (v. 6)? _____

² daughters of Aaron: descendant of Aaron the priest; Moses' brother Aaron was the beginning of a priestly line called to minister to the LORD (Exodus 28:1).

3. What physical characteristics are recorded of Elisabeth (v. 7)? _____

4. How was the birth of her son John foretold (vv. 8-13)? _____

Who was the angel of the LORD (v. 11 see v. 19)? _____³

5. What would happen at his birth (v. 14)? _____

6. What did the angel prophesy concerning John (vv. 15-17)? _____

PERSONAL

READ Luke 1:18-23 where Zacharias doubted the sovereignty of God⁴. Is there something you might be praying for that you feel is too difficult for God? WRITE out Luke 1:37 and apply this promise to your situation.

7. What was Elisabeth's reaction when she conceived the child (Luke 1:24, 25)? _____

In biblical days it was a reproach to be barren. Godly women in the Bible understood that children are a gift from the Lord. God had a purpose in keeping Elisabeth barren until the Scriptures would be fulfilled concerning John who would herald the coming of Christ.

³ Gabriel - Hebrew *Gabriel* man of God; hero of God, archangel, a heavenly messenger.

⁴ sovereignty of God: one of the perfections of God's being; the supreme rulership of God.

SECTION 2 - A Visit From an Angel

As we first encounter Mary the mother of our Savior, she is a young woman. In those days it was not unusual for women to become engaged and marry at a young age.

READ Luke 1:26-38.

1. Where did God send the angel Gabriel next (v. 26, 27)? _____

Nazareth⁵ is not mentioned in the Bible until the story of Mary. This reveals to us that even the city where the mother of the Savior came from was of little significance and certainly not where one would expect a king to live.

2. When the angel appeared to Mary, who was she espoused to (v. 27)? _____
_____ ⁶

3. What was the blessed salutation brought by the angel Gabriel to Mary (v. 28)? _____

4. Why was Mary troubled⁷ (v. 29)? _____

5. How did the angel calm her fears (v. 30)? _____
_____ ⁸

LOOK DEEPER

Prior to the angel visiting Mary, the prophet Isaiah prophesied between 740-680 BC concerning the virgin birth.

WRITE the prophecy (Isaiah 7:14). _____

⁵ Nazareth - Hebrew *cobek* thicket: branch, sprout, shoot, woods (see Isaiah 11:1); the people of Nazareth were said, by some, to be impure because of their intermarriages with foreigners. Those coming from Nazareth were often scorned and ridiculed (John 1:46). Jesus would one day be called the Nazarene (see Matthew 2:23).

⁶ house of David: Joseph was a descendant from the line of King David (Matthew 1:1-18).

⁷ troubled: disturbed wholly, to be greatly agitated; alarmed.

⁸ Fear - Greek *phobeo* to frighten: be alarmed.

WRITE the angel's declaration (Matthew 1:23). _____

6. What did the angel reveal to Mary (Luke 1:31-33)? _____

By what name would He be called? _____

What authority would He have? _____

7. What did Mary fear (v. 34)? _____

8. How would Mary conceive (v. 35)? _____

What would be birthed in her? _____

9. What miracle had her cousin Elisabeth experienced (vv. 36, 37)? _____

WRITE out verse 37. _____

10. Mary surrendered her will to God. WRITE her declaration (v. 38). _____

PERSONAL

Before the angel revealed the Lord's plan for Mary's life, he reassured her by saying, *Fear not*. Mary trusted God. Has the Lord revealed plans for your life that have caused you to fear? How does Psalm 27 build your faith and trust in God?

SECTION 3 - Elisabeth Proclaims the Coming Lord

READ Luke 1:39-45.

1. FOLLOW Mary's actions after the angel's departure (vv. 39, 40). _____

2. How did the baby in Elisabeth's womb respond when the mother of his Savior saluted his mother (vv. 41, 44)?

Who was Elisabeth filled with? _____

PERSONAL

LOOK around you. Is there someone that you can look to for spiritual guidance? PRAY about being an encouragement to someone around you.

3. What caused baby John to respond this way (Luke 1:15)? _____

4. How did Elisabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, bless Mary (Luke 1:42-45)? _____

Who was Elisabeth referring to when she said, *my Lord*? _____

What word of knowledge⁹ did Elisabeth give to Mary that prompted her to glorify the Lord? _____

When Elisabeth was six months pregnant, Mary, who had just conceived, visited her. Yet Elisabeth, inspired by the Holy Spirit, was made aware of Mary's pregnancy, and was given knowledge of the things that the angel had revealed to Mary. By the Holy Spirit she acknowledged and confessed that Jesus had come in the flesh to be the Savior of the world.

⁹ word of knowledge: the Holy Spirit giving knowledge to man of a specific event, situation, circumstance, etc.

SECTION 4 - Mary's Prayer

Mary now knew she would be the mother of the Messiah. Her heart cried out in gratitude and awe knowing that she had been chosen to fulfill the ancient prophecy. As you read, bear in mind that you are hearing a young woman glorify God for the great things He has done. It will become obvious that her instruction in the Scriptures was thorough; she had been taught the Word from childhood.

READ Luke 1:46-56.

1. In the following verses we will see Mary's character revealed as she rejoices before the Lord. WRITE her *spiritual characteristics* as she responds to His goodness.

v. 46 Example: she magnifies the Lord

v. 47 _____

v. 48 _____

v. 49 _____

v. 50 _____

2. In the following verses Mary demonstrates her intimate relationship and knowledge of the Lord. MATCH each verse with the appropriate quality or characteristic of God.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| _____ v. 46 | a. He is the Provider |
| _____ v. 47 | b. He helps Israel |
| _____ v. 49a | c. He is Mighty |
| _____ v. 49b | d. His mercy is on all who fear Him |
| _____ v. 50 | e. His name is Holy |
| _____ v. 51 | f. He puts down the prideful and exalts the lowly |
| _____ v. 52 | g. His arm is strong |
| _____ v. 53 | h. He is her Lord |
| _____ v. 54 | i. He is God her Savior |

PERSONAL

What word or phrase draws you into intimate communion with the Lord? _____

3. Where did Mary go after visiting with Elisabeth (Luke 1:56)? _____

Mary conceived by the Spirit of God and Elisabeth was pregnant in her old age.

For with God nothing shall be impossible (Luke 1:37).

SECTION 5 - The Savior Is Born

The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. He instructed Joseph not to fear but to take Mary as his wife, as the baby she had conceived was of the Holy Ghost. Joseph was a just man and believed God. Joseph took Mary as his wife and in accordance with the prophecy regarding the Child being holy, he abstained from consummating the marriage until the baby was born (Matthew 1:18-25). Because Mary was with child prior to marriage, she was in danger of facing ridicule, embarrassment, and according to the law, even death.

READ Luke 2:1-20.

1. Where were Joseph and Mary ordered to go to be taxed (vv. 1-5)? _____

Why Bethlehem? _____

2. What prophecy was in Micah 5:2 that would be fulfilled through Joseph and Mary? _____

3. How far along was Mary in her pregnancy (Luke 2:5b)? _____

If you have a map of Israel during the time of Christ, take note of the distance between Nazareth and Bethlehem. The journey was more than seventy miles over rough and hilly terrain. The trip had many great dangers, especially for a woman in Mary's condition.

PERSONAL

It is of great comfort to know that as the Lord maps out our path, He also promises to go with us and protect us! What verse out of Psalm 91 speaks to you the most right now?

What verse in Psalm 91 would you give to Mary for her journey? _____

4. There was no room in the town of Bethlehem for Mary to give birth to the Savior of the world. What did Mary do (Luke 2:6, 7)?

There was no room in the inn. Mary was forced to give birth to her Child in a cave used to house livestock. She laid the Savior in a manger¹⁰.

5. What *good tidings of great joy* did the angel of the Lord bring to the shepherds (vv. 8-12)? _____

6. How were the multitude of the heavenly hosts¹¹ praising God (vv. 13, 14)? _____

7. The shepherds announced the Good News to Bethlehem. What was the reaction of the people (vv. 15-18)?

8. What did Mary do (v. 19)? _____

9. What did the shepherds then do (v. 20)? _____

SECTION 6 - The Testimonies of the Faithful

READ Luke 2:21-40.

1. Why did Joseph and Mary take the Child to Jerusalem (vv. 21-24)? _____

¹⁰ manger: a feeding stall to be used as a crib.

¹¹ hosts - Greek *stratia* an army: camp likeness, an army of angels, the celestial luminaries.

According to the Law of Moses, a woman had to wait forty days after the birth of a child before she could enter the temple. This was a time when she would be cleansed physically and spiritually.

2. NAME and DESCRIBE the man that Joseph and Mary met there (vv. 25, 26). _____

What did the Holy Ghost reveal to him? _____

3. Who brought Simeon to the temple? Who brought Jesus (v. 27)? _____

4. What did Simeon do and say (vv. 28-32)? _____

5. What were Joseph and Mary's reaction (v. 33)? _____

6. WRITE Simeon's blessing for them (vv. 34, 35). _____

7. Who else was in the temple (v. 36, 37)? _____¹²

How long had she been married? _____

Anna had been a widow for about eighty four years. She would have been over one hundred years of age. What had she done throughout her years?

8. What did Anna do when Mary entered the temple (Luke 2:38)? _____

¹² prophetess: a female prophet, a messenger who speaks God's inspired Words.

PERSONAL

Have you accepted Christ as your personal Lord and Savior? If so, do you think you have a heart of thanks and a desire to tell others about Him? ASK the Lord to place on your heart several people you can share the Good News of Jesus Christ with.

MEMORY VERSE

(Luke 1:37).

Through the story of Mary and those around her, we learn that God has a divine purpose for each one of us as He brings about His eternal plan for the ages through them. Mary was to be the virgin mother of the Savior of the world, born in the flesh. It seems like an impossible situation for Mary but not for God. Through the empowering of the Holy Ghost, Mary and Joseph's obedience, the angel of the Lord, the multitude of heavenly hosts, encouragement from Elisabeth, the joy of the humble shepherds, and the temple worshipers, Simeon and Anna, God was able to bring about eternal salvation for all mankind.



THE SAMARITAN WOMAN: A WOMAN OF GREAT SPIRITUAL THIRST

INTRODUCTION

A nameless woman crossed Jesus' path one day. She was a Samaritan, descendants of the Jews that had intermarried with the Assyrians. They settled in Samaria which is located in the Promised Land. This was a direct violation of God's law. The Jews disassociated themselves from them, and viewed the Samaritans as aliens. To the Jews the woman of Samaria was a cast off, a poor sinner. It was an . . . *unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation* (Acts 10:28). The Rabbinic precept affirmed that a man should not speak in public to a woman and the law should be burned rather than taught publicly to a woman.

Jesus, who came to be the Savior of the world, appointed a day in His eternal calendar to meet with this rejected woman. He lovingly drew her to Himself and revealed Himself to her as the Living Water who alone can quench man's spiritual thirst.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

Name Given to the Woman in this Story

Woman of Samaria

A woman of Samaria came to draw water (NKJV, John 4:7).

She was a Samaritan, a name that brought deep-rooted conflict and rejection from within the Jewish society.

SECTION I – Breaking Down the Barriers

READ John 4:1-9.

1. What did Jesus become aware of that caused Him to leave Judea¹ (vv. 1-3)? _____

Who was actually doing the baptizing? _____

Where was Jesus' destination? _____²

2. What area did He need to go through (v. 4)? _____

Samaria was on the direct route between Judea to Galilee. However, because of the animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans, many Jews, to avoid the Samaritans, would take a longer route and travel on the east side of the Jordan River as they went back and forth from Galilee and Judea.

LOOK DEEPER

FIND a map of Palestine in Jesus' time; LOCATE the areas of Judea, Galilee and Samaria.

3. In what part of Samaria do we find Jacob's well (vv. 5, 6)? _____

How was Jesus when He arrived at the well? _____

At what hour did He arrive? _____

John, in his Gospel, is very careful to show Jesus in His deity³ as well as His humanity.

4. Who arrived on the scene when Jesus came to the well? Why (v. 7a)? _____

¹ Judea: fifty-five miles north to south and east to west, extending from the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea, with its northern boundary at Joppa and its southern a few miles south of Gaza; named Judea after the exiles from Babylon who returned there from the tribe of Judah.

² Galilee - Greek *he Galilaia* the ring or circuit: the most northerly of the three provinces of Palestine (Galilee, Samaria, and Judea); fifty miles north to south and thirty miles east to west. The northern boundary extended from Phoenicia to Dan; and the southern boundary from the base of Mt. Carmel and the Samaritan hills to Mt. Gilboa and Bethshean to the Jordan.

³ deity: the character or nature of the Supreme Being, Christ as the Son of God.

The Jewish day runs from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., the sixth hour is noontime. It was customary for water to be drawn at sunrise or sunset rather than noontime when the heat was at its greatest. It was unusual and significant that this woman was at the well at this time.

5. What did Jesus request of her (v. 7b)? _____

6. Where were the disciples (v. 8)? _____

7. What perplexed her about Jesus' request (v. 9)? _____

By going through Samaria and talking with this woman, Jesus broke through the barriers of nationality and orthodox⁴ Jewish customs. We see Jesus demonstrate His love in action.

SECTION 2 – Living Water

READ John 4:10-15.

1. Although the woman identified Jesus as a Jew, how did He begin to make Himself known to her (v. 10)?

LOOK DEEPER

What do the following Scriptures say about *living water* and its source?

John 7:37-39 _____

5

Revelation 7:17 _____

6

Revelation 21:6 _____

7

⁴ orthodox: traditional practices of Judaism.

⁵ Spirit: the third Person of the Triune God; God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

⁶ Lamb: Jesus, the Lamb of God (John 1:29).

⁷ Alpha and Omega: the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet; the Beginning and the End.

Revelation 22:1 _____

Revelation 22:17 _____⁸

2. Not grasping the spiritual analogy that He is giving to her about Himself, what did she question (John 4:11, 12)?

3. What did Jesus say about the water from Jacob's well (v. 13)? _____

4. Drawing her to Himself, what did He state about the water that He gives (v. 14)? _____

5. Desiring to have her thirst quenched, what did she desire from Him (v. 15)? _____

The water Jesus supplies is not water to satisfy a recurring physical need. Jesus is the fountain of Living Water the source of unfailing spiritual, life-giving water. His Living Water will quench all of our spiritual human needs.

PERSONAL

If you have drank of the Living Water, how have you found His statements to be true? _____

LOOK DEEPER

What additional truths do the following verses say about the *Living Water*?

Isaiah 44:3 _____

⁸ the Bride: the Lord's church; the saints; the Body of Believers.

Isaiah 55:1 _____

Jeremiah 2:13 _____

SECTION 3 – Facing the Truth

READ John 4:16-26.

1. How did Jesus direct the woman to her spiritual thirst (v. 16)? _____

In New Testament times, a woman had to call her husband before engaging in a serious discussion with a man.

2. What was the woman's reply (vv. 17, 18)? _____

What truth does Jesus reveal to her? _____

3. Realizing that he must be a great spiritual man, what did she perceive (v. 19)? _____

9

Jesus was well aware of the Samaritan's immorality, yet He still took the time to reveal tremendous truths to her.

LOOK DEEPER

Jesus is more than just a prophet, He is God, and He is omniscient!¹⁰ What do the following Scriptures say about Christ's omniscience?

John 1:47-49 _____

Who did Nathanael declare Jesus was? _____

11

John 2:24, 25 _____

⁹ Prophet: one who is divinely inspired to communicate God's will to His people and disclose the future to them.

¹⁰ omniscient: having complete and infinite knowledge, awareness, or understanding; perceiving and knowing all things.

¹¹ Rabbi: Master, Teacher.

Hebrews 4:13 _____

I John 3:20 _____

4. Comprehending this was a religious conversation, what was her argument (John 4:20)? _____

To avoid the issue of her sin, the Samaritan woman turned the conversation to the long standing conflict between the Jews over the place of worship. Yet Jesus wanted to teach her that the spirit of worship was more important than the place of worship.

5. What did Jesus say about the worship¹² of God in the following verses?

v. 21 _____

v. 22 _____

v. 23 _____

v. 24 _____

6. Not knowing who Jesus was, what did the woman already know about Him (v. 25)? _____

13

7. Jesus unveiled the mystery. Who is He (v. 26)? _____

¹² worship: lovingly adore; give wholehearted devotion to.

¹³ Messiah - Greek anointed: name of Christ; the Coming One, in NKJV it is Messiah.

PERSONAL

Who is Jesus to you? _____

What or whom do you worship? _____

How do you know if you worship God in spirit and in truth? _____

SECTION 4 – Sharing the Wonder

READ John 4:27-42.

1. What was the disciples' reaction when they saw Jesus speaking to a woman (v. 27)? _____

2. Where did the woman go and who did she speak with (v. 28)? _____

What did she leave behind? _____

3. What did she invite the city to do (v. 29)? _____

Who did she believe the Man to be? _____

PERSONAL

When was the last time you invited someone to meet Jesus? _____

Have you told others of your personal encounter with Christ and the tremendous things He has done for you? What effect did it have on those who heard?

4. How did the people of the city respond to the woman's testimony¹⁴ (v. 30)? _____

5. At this time, what were the disciples more concerned with (v. 31)? _____

Jesus took another opportunity to teach the disciples a lesson concerning eternal matters over temporal concerns. At this time He had them lift up their eyes to the fields which were ripe for harvest. He was pointing them to the spiritual harvest that was to come. Because of the Samaritan woman's testimony, many people from the city came to see and hear Him. The Lord had sowed seeds (His Word) into the woman's heart, now there was a great harvest of souls to be reaped.

6. The disciples wanted to feed Jesus, what did Christ spiritually feed on (vv. 31-34)? _____

7. What did Christ teach His disciples concerning soul-winning (vv. 35-38)? _____

8. How was the testimony she gave successful (v. 39)? _____

9. What request did the Samaritan's have of Jesus (v. 40)? _____

10. What caused more to believe in Jesus (vv. 41, 42)? _____

Who did they confess Jesus to be? _____

PERSONAL

Do you know Him as Christ, the Savior of the world? Explain.

¹⁴ testimony: witness, personal experience, proclaiming the truths of the Gospel and bearing witness to the power of these truths.

What spiritual harvest (fruit) have you seen in the lives of others because of your personal witness of Jesus Christ?

Remember that God loves us all and wants everyone to accept His gift of salvation.

MEMORY VERSE.

(John 4:24).

Isn't it wonderful to think that Jesus goes out of His way to seek out one lost sinner! The Samaritan woman's brief encounter with Christ brings enormous significance into our lives. He knows everything about us. He wants us to know Him intimately. He desires to become our personal Savior, cleanse us of our sins and give us eternal life. He gives value to those who ordinarily would be considered worthless in the eyes of men. The Samaritan woman teaches us the difference He can make in our lives when we drink the water that only He can give. She had an empty and unfulfilled life, which He filled with Himself and, in turn, overflowed in loving testimony to others. Her life became of great service to her Messiah and King.

NOTES: _____

[illegible]



MARY AND MARTHA SERVICE AND DEVOTION

INTRODUCTION

Mary and Martha were sisters and devoted friends of Jesus. Despite their close friendship with Him, they recognized Jesus as their Lord and Master and desired to give Him their best.

When Christ came to visit them, Martha focused on her service to Him which caused her to be very agitated and perplexed. Mary's focus was Christ. He brought peace to her soul.

Jesus lovingly taught Martha the importance of living a balanced life of worship and service. Her faith grew to a greater understanding of who Jesus was through a family crisis. In Mary's life, we learn the importance of sitting at the feet of Jesus and putting Him first in our lives. She is an example for us to follow through her surrendered love and worship.

There are both spiritual and practical lessons to learn from the lives of Mary and Martha. Ask the Lord to personalize this lesson for you, and to show you how to be a woman that will serve Him and sit at His feet.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldst believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God? (John 11:40)

Names Given to the Sisters

Mary Sister	<i>And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet . . .</i> (Luke 10:39). The name <i>Mary</i> in Hebrew means - bitter. Miriam and Mara are also derivatives of this name. In the Old Testament, <i>Marah</i> is the name given to the first camp set up by the Israelites in their journey in the wilderness, because the waters were bitter (Exodus 15:22, 23).
Martha A certain woman	<i>. . . a certain woman named Martha received Him into her house</i> (Luke 10:38). The name <i>Martha</i> is the feminine form of <i>moro</i> or <i>more</i> . The word <i>moro</i> means - lord or master. This same term is found in the word <i>maran</i> as in the word <i>Maran-atha: The Lord cometh</i> .

SECTION I – Two Sisters, Two Personalities

READ Luke 10:38-42.

OBSERVE the ministry of Jesus and the different personalities of Mary and Martha as you answer the following questions.

1. Who received Jesus into her house (v. 38)? _____
2. What is said about Mary (v. 39)? _____

3. What seemed most important to Martha, and what effect did this have on her (v. 40)? _____

1

What complaint did Martha bring before the Lord about her sister? _____

PERSONAL

When have you felt like Martha? _____

EXAMINE the circumstances, what causes you to be anxious? _____

How can you change the way you serve the Lord? _____

¹ cumbered about: to drag all around; distracted with care.

4. How did Jesus respond to Martha (v. 41)? _____²

_____³

When Jesus said *Martha, Martha*, He was trying to emphasize a point. There are other times when Jesus used a double address, such as in Luke 13:34, when He sadly said, *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem*, expressing His deep sorrow over Jerusalem because they had killed many of the Prophets sent by God. Also in Luke 22:31, Jesus caught Peter's attention by saying, *Simon, Simon*, and warned him that Satan had requested to sift him as wheat, but He had prayed for him that his faith would not fail.

5. What did Jesus say to Martha about Mary (Luke 10:42)? _____

6. What was the *one thing*⁴ that is needful *that good part*⁵ Mary chose (Luke 10:39)? _____

LOOK DEEPER

READ Psalm 27:4-8.

What is the *one thing* that David desired of the Lord (v. 4)? _____

Why (vv. 5, 6a)? _____

How did David seek Him (vv. 6b-8)? _____

PERSONAL

With whom do you identify more, Mary or Martha? Why? _____

² careful: anxious about; take thought.

³ troubled - Greek *turbazo* disturbed: from *turbe* (Latin *turba* a crown).

⁴ one thing is needful: one employment; one requirement or business is necessary.

⁵ good part: good portion or participation.

We all need to balance our life with both Mary and Martha's positive traits.

LOOK DEEPER

How does Matthew 6:33 and 11:28-30 help you to put your labor for the Lord in better perspective?

SECTION 2 – A Family Crisis

READ John 11:1-7.

1. Who was sick (v. 1)? _____

Where was he from? _____⁶

2. What had Mary done in adoration to the Lord (v. 2)? _____

How was Lazarus related to Mary and Martha? _____

The reference in John 11:2 to Mary, is found in Mark 14:1-9: A beautiful lesson to be studied in SECTION 4.

3. What was the message Mary and Martha sent to Jesus (John 11:3)? _____⁷

4. What did Jesus say when He heard about Lazarus' illness (v. 4)? _____

⁶ Bethany - Greek *Bethania* date house: two miles east of Jerusalem on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives. Jesus ascended to heaven from the hills of Bethany.

⁷ Lord - Greek *kurios* master: owner; one who has supreme power and authority.

5. What was Christ's relationship to this family (v. 5)? _____

6. What did Jesus decide to do (v. 6)? _____

7. Who went to Judea⁸ with Jesus? What did they fear (vv. 7, 8)? _____

PERSONAL

In what specific trial or difficulty in your life are you waiting for the glory of God to be revealed?

LOOK DEEPER

Do you feel God is not answering your prayer fast enough? READ and MEDITATE on Psalm 40:1-3, Isaiah 40:28-31, and Micah 7:7. What ministered to you from them?

8. What characteristics or attributes of Jesus can you see in John 11:1-7? _____

⁸ Judea: fifty-five miles north to south and east to west, extending from the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea, with its northern boundary at Joppa and its southern a few miles south of Gaza; named Judea after the exiles from Babylon who returned there from the tribe of Judah.

SECTION 3 – Christ the Resurrection

READ John 11:8-45.

Jesus and the disciples returned to Bethany despite the concern the disciples had for His life. The Jews had thought to stone Him; yet Jesus turned their attention back to the work at hand (vv. 8-10). Jesus had plainly declared, *My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work* (John 4:34). At this time, He was to do a work in the lives of His close friends, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.

1. Jesus delayed going to Lazarus for two days. What happened to Lazarus (vv. 11-15)? _____

9

Why was Jesus glad? _____

Knowing that the Jews sought to stone Jesus, Thomas was willing to die with Him (v. 16).

2. What did Jesus and the disciples find when they arrived in Bethany (vv. 17-19)? _____

There were many there to comfort Martha and Mary. Who were they? _____

3. Who ran to Jesus as soon as He arrived (v. 20)? _____

What did Mary do? _____

As Jesus personally ministers to Martha, we shall see how beautifully He takes her step by step to a deeper understanding of who He is. It is often in a time of crisis that Jesus does the same for us.

4. What was the first thing Martha said to Jesus as she ran to meet Him (v. 21)? _____

5. What was the second remark made by Martha to Jesus (v. 22)? _____

6. How did Jesus respond (v. 23, 24)? _____

What did Martha believe about the resurrection? _____

⁹ sleepeth - Greek *koimao* to put to sleep; to slumber; to de cease; be dead.

7. Who does Jesus say He is (vv. 25, 26)? _____

8. Martha's faith was being strengthened by the LORD, what profound statement of faith did Martha pronounce (v. 27)?

LOOK DEEPER

Who alone can reveal to man that Christ is the Son of the Living God (Matthew 16:13-17)? _____

READ John 20:31. Why did John write the Book of John? _____

PERSONAL

How has the Holy Spirit revealed to you that Christ is the Son of the Living God? _____

Martha went and called Mary secretly.

9. What title did Martha ascribe to Jesus (John 11:28)? _____

10. What was Mary's response (vv. 29, 31)? _____

Where was Jesus? _____

Who followed Mary? Why? _____

11. As customary with Mary, what did she do at the first sight of Jesus (v. 32)? _____

12. WRITE how Jesus displayed His humanity (vv. 33-38). _____

10

13. What did Jesus say (v. 39)? _____

What was Martha's response? _____

14. What would enable the sisters to see the Glory of God (v. 40)? _____

15. WRITE the Lord's prayer to His Father in heaven after the stone was rolled away (vv. 41, 42). _____

16. What did Jesus cry out in a loud voice (vv. 43, 44)? _____

Lazarus, though dead, resurrected. What was his appearance? _____

What did Jesus command? _____

17. What was the result of Lazarus being brought back to life (vv. 45, 46)? _____

¹⁰ Master – Greek *didaskalos* instructor: Teacher.

SECTION 4 – An Act of Worship

READ Matthew 26:6-13 and Mark 14:1-9. COMPARE them with John 12:1-8.

1. What important feast was about to take place (John 12:1)? _____

Passover¹² is the annual Jewish feast that commemorates the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. God instructed His people to place blood on the door posts of their homes to protect them from the angel of death which God sent to kill every first born to judge the gods of Egypt. This feast would become a symbol of the coming Deliverer and Savior, Jesus Christ, the Passover Lamb, a symbol of His blood which would be shed on the cross for the salvation of man. Jesus became the last Passover Lamb. READ Exodus Chapters 11 and 12.

2. Six days before the last Passover supper, Jesus visited Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. How did each of them serve their Lord (John 12:1-3)?

Martha served. The word *served* means - to be an attendant, wait upon and minister. Martha served without complaint, without frustration, without a word.

3. What was Judas concerned about (John 12:4-6)? _____

4. Why did Mary anoint Jesus (John 12:7, 8)? _____

What did Jesus say about the poor and about Himself? _____

5. What additional information do you find in the following Gospels?

Matthew 26:6-13 _____

¹¹ Pharisees: closely organized Jewish religious group who pledged themselves to obey all facets of the religious traditions. They believed they alone could interpret God and His Word. They bitterly opposed Jesus and His teachings.

¹² Passover: to spare or to skip over.

WRITE out verse 13. _____

Mark 14:3-9 _____

PERSONAL

How do you respond to those who object to your devotion to Jesus Christ? _____

After studying these two women and their love for Jesus, is there an area in your life that is in need of change? What will you do to change your worship of Jesus?

MEMORY VERSE

_____ ? (John 11:40)

Through Martha we learn that serving is necessary but our spiritual worship to Christ must be our main focus. Service alone causes great anxiety and distress. Through Mary, we see a woman who truly believed that Christ was the only One who could master all of life's circumstances; therefore, she made Him the center of all her attention. For her, only one thing was needful and that was to sit at Jesus' feet and anoint the One who would become her Savior, for His burial.

¹³ spikenard: a favorite perfume of the ancients; an ointment preserved in an alabaster box (non-porous rock) to preserve its fragrance; extremely costly as it was transported from India.

NOTES: _____



MARY MAGDALENE: A DEVOTED FOLLOWER

INTRODUCTION

A person's life is never the same once they encounter the Savior. This was especially true in the life of Mary Magdalene, a woman who had been possessed by seven demons. After she met Jesus face to face and He set her free, she then became one of Christ's most devoted followers.

Mary Magdalene was a passionate servant, who gave her whole life to the Lord's work. She faithfully followed Jesus in His ministry, and served Him with her time, energy, and substance. When Jesus was arrested many of His closest followers fled in fear. They lost hope when He was crucified, but Mary Magdalene remained ever loyal to her Savior.

She stayed close to Him, lovingly devoted, all the way to the cross. Inseparable even after His death, she followed Him to the tomb where He lay. Mary Magdalene was a privileged disciple: she was the first person to witness the risen Christ.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, and Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance (Luke 8:2, 3).

Names Given to Mary Magdalene

- Mary . . . *Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils* . . . (Luke 8:2).
Mary in Hebrew means - bitter. Mary is always identified as Mary Magdalene.
- Magdalene *Magdala* in Hebrew means - tower. Magdala was a thriving town at the time of Christ.
Mary was from Magdala, thus she was called Mary Magdalene after her place of birth.

SECTION 1 - A Freed Follower

READ Luke 8:1-3.

In Luke 7:36-50, an unnamed, sinful woman washes Jesus' feet with her tears of repentance and anoints them with ointment from an alabaster box. In Chapter 8, He continues on His ministry journey.

1. Where do we find the Lord and what was He doing (v. 1)? _____

Who was with Him? _____

2. Who else accompanied Jesus throughout every city and village (vv. 2, 3)? _____

1 2

What had Mary Magdalene been freed from? _____

3

LOOK DEEPER

The New Testament describes people who were demon possessed. What symptoms do they experience?

Matthew 9:32, 33 _____

Matthew 12:22 _____

Mark 1:23-26 _____

Luke 9:37-42 _____

¹ Joanna - Greek Jehovah is a gracious giver.

² Susanna - Greek Lily.

³ devils: demons, evil unclean spirits; fallen angelic spiritual beings of the underworld; demon-spirits: Demonic spirits operate above the laws of the natural realm and are invisible and incorporeal. As spirit personalities, demons have an intellectual nature through which they possess superhuman knowledge and strength; they are mentally, morally, physically, and spiritually depraved.

Whether Mary Magdalene's demon possession was mental, emotional or physical is not specifically mentioned. However, when her life was in Satan's grip, she experienced torment, anguish and despair – until she met Jesus.

4. Who cast seven devils from Mary and healed her (Mark 16:9)? _____

5. What were Mary and many other women doing for Jesus (Luke 8:3)? _____

4

PERSONAL

Are you a follower of Christ? Is there a way in which you provide for Jesus and His ministry? _____

There were other women who followed Jesus throughout every city and village who were also healed from demon possession and various infirmities, but once they met Jesus they were all healed spiritually. They became an integral part of His ministry.

LOOK DEEPER

What insight does Ephesians 2:1-3 give to us concerning the spiritual condition of man before he meets Jesus?

What has God so richly done for them (Ephesians 2:4-7)? _____

6. These women demonstrated their praise and thanksgiving to Jesus by their actions. What do the following Scriptures say about praise and thanksgiving?

Psalm 34:1-6 _____

⁴ substance: property and possessions, means; wealth, goods.

Psalm 95:1-3 _____

Psalm 150 _____

Philippians 4:4-7 _____

5

PERSONAL

How can you offer praise and thanksgiving to God for your spiritual freedom today? _____

How is this demonstrated in your life? _____

SECTION 2 - A Passionate Follower

Mary Magdalene followed Jesus throughout His ministry. After three and one half years Jesus is arrested. He was scourged, mocked and sentenced to crucifixion. Most of His followers forsook Christ at this time, but Mary Magdalene was one of the very few disciples that continued to passionately follow Him.

READ John 19:1-30.

1. DESCRIBE how Jesus suffered (John 19:1-25). _____

Where do you find Mary Magdalene? _____

⁵ moderation: gentleness, patient.

LOOK DEEPER

Isaiah predicted Christ's suffering. What can you learn from Isaiah 53? _____

Jesus' passion and love for us was expressed openly on the cross. Mary's passion and love for Jesus was expressed openly as she stood by Him at the foot of the cross in His darkest hour.

PERSONAL

How passionate is your love for Christ today? _____

In what ways could you cause your love for Him to grow? _____

LOOK DEEPER

DESCRIBE the love of God, and how it moves and works through us.

John 15:13 _____

II Corinthians 5:14a _____⁶

I John 3:16 _____

I John 4:19 _____

Mary watched the Lord suffer. The love of Christ permeated her being. How is this love⁷ described in the following verses (I Corinthians 13:1-8a, 13)?

⁶ constraineth: to hold together; to compel; to arrest; keep in; be taken with.

⁷ love: in the King James Version, the word *charity* is used for love. This love is *agape* love, sacrificial love, love of choice, Christ-like love, divine love.

2. What other women demonstrated loving devotion for Jesus (John 19:25)? _____

What did the women observe (John 19:28-30)? _____

The women continued in vigilance.

3. What happened beginning at the sixth hour⁸ (Mark 15:33-41)? _____

What statement did the centurion make concerning Jesus? _____

Who were those looking from afar off at the cross? _____

SECTION 3 - An Active Follower

READ Matthew 27:55-66, Mark 15:42-47, Luke 23:50-56, and John 19:38-42.

Mary continued to follow her LORD.

1. After Jesus' death on the cross, who asked for His body (Matthew 27:57, 58)? _____

What steps did Joseph take to acquire the Lord's body? _____

2. DESCRIBE the details of how Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus carefully buried the Lord from the following verses:

Matthew 27:59, 60 _____

Mark 15:45, 46 _____

Luke 23:53 _____

⁸ sixth hour: about mid-day.

John 19:39-42 _____

3. What were Mary Magdalene and the other women doing at the tomb?

Matthew 27:61 _____

Mark 15:47 _____

Luke 23:55, 56 _____

4. Mary Magdalene and the other women demonstrated an active faith by following Jesus to the cross and even to the sepulchre. What do the following Scriptures say about faith in action?

Romans 10:17 _____

Hebrews 11:1 _____

Hebrews 11:6 _____

James 2:26 _____

PERSONAL

Does your life demonstrate an active faith in Jesus Christ? What have you done to deny yourself, and completely surrender your life and service to Him?

SECTION 4 - A Faithful Follower

Mary's encounter at the tomb is recorded in all four Gospels. Although, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John's accounts may appear to contradict one another, they do not. Just as two reporters can witness the same event, but their stories will vary according to what impacted them, the same is true of the accounts written by them.

READ Mark 16:1-11 and Luke 24:1-12.

1. Why did Mary Magdalene and the other women return to the tomb after the Sabbath⁹ (Mark 16:1)?

2. When, specifically, did they return (v. 2, 3)?

What problem did they foresee?

3. What did the women find when they arrived at the tomb (v. 4)?

4. How did the stone roll away (Matthew 28:1-3)?

DESCRIBE the angel of the Lord.

5. When they entered the tomb, what did they discover (Mark 16:5, Luke 24:3)?

6. What instructions did the angel give to Mary and the other women (Mark 16:6, 7, Luke 24:5-7)?

7. How did the women respond to the angel's instructions (Mark 16:8)?

8. What was the disciples' response to the news given them by the women (Luke 24:8-11)?

⁹ Sabbath - Hebrew *shabbath* to desist, cease, rest: the weekly day of rest and worship of the Jews; it was instituted at creation (Genesis 2:3).

9. How did Peter react (v. 12)? _____

PERSONAL

Mary Magdalene and the other women acted in faith by believing and sharing the news of the risen Lord. The lives of these women were dedicated to the service of Christ, whatever the need. How can you serve the Lord and His servants today?

SECTION 5 - A Privileged Follower

The disciple mentioned as *the other disciple whom Jesus loved*, is John, the author of this Gospel. This is his account of the resurrection.

READ John 20:1-31.

1. John gives a more detailed account of Peter and himself on resurrection morning. What additional information does he give? COMPARE these two references: John 20:1-10 to Luke 24:12.

2. What was John's reaction to the empty tomb (John 20:8)? _____

3. How did Mary Magdalene respond, as she stood outside the empty tomb (v. 11)? _____

4. Who did Mary see in the tomb (v. 12)? _____

5. What did the angels ask Mary (v. 13)? _____

Why was she grieving? _____

6. Though she did not recognize Him, who appeared to Mary (v. 14)? _____

7. What did Jesus ask her (v. 15)? _____

Supposing He was the gardener, what did she request of Him? _____

8. What happened that caused Mary to recognize her Lord (v. 16)? _____

What did she call her Lord? _____

At that moment Mary Magdalene became the first person to witness the resurrected Christ. The central truth on which the Gospel¹⁰ stands was first revealed to her! What a tremendous privilege she was given.

9. Jesus gave Mary instructions. What were they (v. 17)? _____

Who is the Father? What is His relationship to Christ and to us? _____

10. How did Mary follow the Lord's instructions (Mark 16:9-11)? _____

What is recorded about the disciples? _____

PERSONAL

God desires each one of us to faithfully follow His every instruction. We find His instructions to us in His Word. Mary Magdalene was a woman who followed after Jesus wholeheartedly. She was blessed and privileged to be the first person to see the risen Lord. Do you obey the Lord by faith even when His directions seem frightful?

LOOK back on the lesson. What kind of follower are you? How do you feel you still need to surrender to God to be a:

freed follower _____

¹⁰ Gospel: good news: the birth, death and resurrection of Christ to redeem man of his sins.

passionate follower _____

active follower _____

faithful follower _____

privileged follower _____

MEMORY VERSE

_____ (Luke 8:2, 3).

Mary Magdalene truly loved God. Her passion for Him overflowed in thanksgiving and loyal service to Him. By following close to Jesus, she lived to witness Christ as He defeated Satan on the cross and conquered death and the grave; thus granting to all who will believe on Him, eternal life.



THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY

INTRODUCTION

They were caught in a trap. One was guilty and the other innocent. She was a sinful woman. He was a sinless Man. The woman stood breathless as her destiny lay in the balance. The Man, who was Jesus, was in complete control of all the circumstances. As usual, He was unmoved by the waves of emotions which had declared her guilty. Man's evil desires and schemes of deceit had brought them together. They had met by divine appointment.

The woman in our study remained nameless. A decision made by the writer of the Gospel, as the Holy Spirit directed him. Yet her story is entrenched in the pages of Scripture as a beautiful illustration of the compassion and tender mercies of Christ. As we study, we will look into just one episode in her life, the moment that she was accused of adultery and judged by a vicious jury. We'll contemplate the instant that she was forgiven, when she came face to face with the One whose name is above all names, the Most High Judge.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

And Jesus said unto her, 'Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more' (John 8:11b).

Name Given to the Woman in this Story

Woman taken in adultery

And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto Him a woman taken in adultery . . . (John 8:3).

SECTION 1 – The Compassionate Teacher

Jesus had spent the previous day teaching in the temple during the Feast of Tabernacles¹. The people of Israel were divided over Him because of His teachings. The Jewish leaders sought to entrap and arrest Him. Unable to take Him, they returned to their own homes to await another opportunity. Perhaps tomorrow . . .

READ John 8:1-12.

1. Jesus came early into the temple. Where did He come from (John 8:1, 2)? _____

LOOK DEEPER

Jesus frequented the Mount of Olives. WRITE out Luke 21:37, 38. _____

Throughout the Gospels we read of Jesus departing to a solitary place. What do the following Scriptures indicate He did?

Mark 1:35 _____

Mark 6:46 _____

Luke 5:16 _____

Luke 6:12 _____

¹ Feast of Tabernacles: religious celebration commemorating the years of wandering in the wilderness by the Israelites.

What was Christ's attitude toward prayer (Luke 18:1)? _____

2. Why did Jesus come to the temple early in the morning (John 8:2)? _____

LOOK DEEPER

We read that throughout His life Jesus went from town to town. What was He doing (Matthew 9:35, 36)?

What motivated Him? _____

What did Jesus teach His disciples (vv. 37, 38)? _____

READ Lamentations 3:22, 23. What does God say about His compassion? _____

PERSONAL

God is always full of compassion towards you. MEDITATE on Hebrews 4:15, 16. Take a few moments now to PRAY for those things that burden you. How are you to come before the Lord? Why?

SECTION 2 – The Wise Reprover

We saw our prayerful and compassionate Lord teaching in the temple, doing the will of the Father. As we move on in our study, events shift and there emerge those who desire to carry out a diabolical scheme.

RE-READ John 8:3-6.

1. Who was brought to Jesus in the temple (v. 3)? _____

What was her sin? _____ ²

What did they do with her? _____

Who were her accusers? _____ ^{3 4}

2. What was she doing right at the moment she was caught (v. 4)? _____

What title did the scribes and Pharisees use on Jesus? _____ ⁵

Where was the man caught in adultery with her? _____

PERSONAL

How have you been caught in the very act of sin? _____

How have you been accused in like manner? _____

Who is called the accuser of the brethren and how often does he accuse them (Revelation 12:9, 10)?

Satan, our accuser will ultimately be cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10).

² adultery: sexual relations with someone other than one's spouse; breaking the marriage vows and covenant.

³ Scribes - Greek *grammateis* experts versed in the Law: a class of learned men who made the systematic study of the Law and its exposition their occupation.

⁴ Pharisees: closely organized Jewish religious group who pledged themselves to obey all facets of the religious traditions. They believed they alone could interpret God and His Word. They bitterly opposed Jesus and His teachings.

⁵ Master - Greek *didaskalos* instructor: Teacher.

3. According to the scribes and Pharisees, what does the Law of Moses say should happen to the woman (John 8:5)?

READ Leviticus 20:10. Who was to be put to death? _____

4. What was the ulterior motive for the scribes and Pharisees in bringing this woman to Jesus (John 8:6a)?

LOOK DEEPER

What did Jesus say really filled the hearts of these men (Matthew 23:25-28)? _____

What will they be unable to escape (v. 33)? _____

These religious leaders had ulterior motives for bringing her to Jesus. They were seeking to accuse Jesus of breaking the Law of Moses.

In Matthew 23:13-33, Jesus pronounces woes against them. What did Jesus call them and what did He say about them?

v. 13 *Woe unto you* _____

...for ye _____

v. 14 *Woe unto you* _____

...for ye _____

v. 15 *Woe unto you* _____

...for ye _____

v. 16 *Woe unto you* _____

... which say _____

v. 17 *Ye* _____

v. 23 *Woe unto you* _____
 ...for ye _____

5. In spite of the scene before Him, how did Jesus react to the situation (John 8:6b)? _____

It is not known what Jesus wrote. Could it have been the sins of each one of the accusers?

LOOK DEEPER

What is Jesus' attitude toward the sinner?

Luke 19:10 _____

II Peter 3:9 _____

PERSONAL

What should our attitude be toward the sinner? _____

Have you ever found yourself with an attitude like the scribes and Pharisees? _____

How did Jesus respond to your sin (Romans 5:8)? _____

SECTION 3 – The Righteous Advocate

RE-READ John 8:7-9.

1. Who did Jesus say would be permitted to cast the first stone at this woman (v. 7)? _____

2. Who is the only one that is without sin (Hebrews 4:15)? _____⁶

3. What did He continue to do (John 8:8)? _____

PERSONAL

THINK for a moment about your secret sins. MEDITATE on Psalm 103:8-12, John 3:16 and Romans 6:23. How has God dealt with your sin?

4. When the scribes and Pharisees heard all Jesus said, what happened to them? What did they do (John 8:9a)?

These men were convicted by their conscience. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:8-11).

5. Who alone was left (v. 9b)? _____

In this mock trial this woman stood before Jesus, guilty as charged.

LOOK DEEPER

When we sin, what does Christ become to us (I John 2:1, 2)? _____

_____⁷

⁶ High Priest: the priesthood of Christ was established in the eternal decrees of God before the foundation of the world and has been exercised on behalf of God's elect (Psalm 110:4).

⁷ advocate: one who pleads the cause of another; a lawyer who intercedes on a person's behalf.

What does He become for our sins and the sins of the whole world? _____

8

How does Jesus judge (John 5:30)? _____

In order to put a few things into perspective, RE-READ John 8:1-9 and LIST the different ways Jesus ministers to the believer and nonbeliever.

We all stand as guilty as this woman accused by Satan, in the midst of the world and the heavenly host. *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23). We stand forgiven by the blood of Jesus, which was shed for our sins at Calvary. *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord* (Romans 6:23). We have a personal lawyer who intercedes to the Father on our behalf . . . *He ever liveth to make intercession for them* (Hebrews 7:25b).

Take a moment now to thank Him for who He is and what He has done for you.

SECTION 4 – The Forgiver of Sins

RE-READ John 8:10-12.

1. What did Jesus ask the woman (v. 10)? _____

2. What did she respond? What did she call Him (v. 11a)? _____

9

3. Jesus directed two final statements to her. What were they (v. 11b)? _____

10

⁸ propitiation - Hebrew *kiporeth* and Greek *hilasterion* mercy seat: a covering for our sin. An atoning sacrifice that satisfies the wrath of God on behalf of all those who believe.

⁹ Lord - Greek *kurios* master: owner; one who has supreme power and authority.

¹⁰ condemn: to pass judgement on, to sentence.

Jesus did not pass sentence on her but told her to *go and sin no more*. In saying this, He told her adultery is sin. As she left He gave her the path to follow (John 8:11).

4. What did Jesus say of Himself and of those who follow Him (v. 12)? _____

PERSONAL

If you have sin in your life what must you do (I John 1:9)? _____

What is He faithful and just to do? _____

What is the promise and the conditions to be met (Romans 8:1a)? _____

Are you walking in a sin that is bringing darkness into your life? If so, RE-READ I John 1:9 and CONFESS that sin to God, then *go and sin no more*.

MEMORY VERSE

_____ (John 8:11b).

Through the study of the adulteress woman, we learn of the great compassion and forgiveness there is through the Lord Jesus Christ. All we need to do is ask, receive forgiveness in faith, and turn from our sinful ways.

Despite her sin, the adulteress woman was able to recognize Jesus as the Savior of the world and surrendered to His lordship over her life. Knowing the Scriptures, the scribes and Pharisees willfully chose to reject Christ even though the Scriptures clearly testify of Him.

NOTES: _____

[illegible]



LOIS AND EUNICE: WOMEN OF GODLY INFLUENCE

INTRODUCTION

Many women in the Bible strongly influenced the men placed around them for either good or bad. Behind every man there has been a mother, wife, or other woman who has influenced him. Many godly men in the Bible were built up, encouraged, and prayed for by women who stood by their side. Other women were bad influences who spiritually brought down men that God had chosen for His work.

In New Testament times, women were very involved in the ministry of Jesus and in the early church. Two such outstanding women were Lois and Eunice. Although only mentioned once, their influence on the life of Timothy was a great influence to the body of Christ. The Apostle Paul called to remembrance Timothy's . . . *genuine faith which dwelt first in [his] grandmother Lois and [his] mother Eunice* . . . (II Timothy 1:5, NKJV).

Today, their example is still one we can model and imitate in our Christian walk as women. We can strongly influence the children God has given to us, or surrounded us with, by instructing them in God's Word, praying continually for them, and encouraging their faith in the Lord.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also (II Timothy 1:5).

Names Given to the Women in this Story

Lois Grandmother	<i>When I [Paul] call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee [Timothy], which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois . . . (II Timothy 1:5).</i> <i>Lois</i> means - agreeable, desirable, similar in meaning to Naomi. Lois was the grandmother of Timothy, a great helper to Paul in the early church. She is the only one referred to in the Bible as a grandmother.
Eunice Mother	<i>. . . and thy [Timothy] mother Eunice . . . (II Timothy 1:5).</i> <i>Eunice</i> implies - conquering well, a name she aspired to in an effort to bring up her son in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Eunice was Timothy's mother. Together these two women instilled a great and lasting faith in Timothy.
Jewess	<i>. . . Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed . . . (Acts 16:1).</i>

SECTION 1 – Timothy's Godly Heritage

Paul took Silas on a missionary journey, together they were to strengthen the churches already begun on previous missionary trips.

READ Acts 16:1-5.

1. Who did Paul meet when he went to Derbe and Lystra (v. 1)? _____

What facts are stated concerning his mother? _____

What about his father? _____

LOOK DEEPER

As a Jewish mother, what godly heritage was to be passed down from one generation to another (Deuteronomy 6:1-5)?

What were God's commandments to parents, mother and father, in training their children (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)?

Despite the cultural differences which probably brought spiritual differences in the home, Timothy was faithfully taught the Scriptures. If the father is not the spiritual leader in the home, the responsibility then falls upon the mother to train the children in God's ways.

PERSONAL

In what simple ways can you instruct a child in the basic doctrines of Christ? _____

2. What did the people at Lystra and Iconium think about Timothy (Acts 16:2)? _____

PERSONAL

In what ways can you speak well of young ministers in the Church? _____

3. What did Paul do before Timothy could be accepted by the Jewish minister (Acts 16:3)? _____

1

What was Timothy well equipped to do because of his early training in the Scriptures (vs. 4, 5)? _____

2

What affect did his ministry with Paul have on the churches? _____

LOOK DEEPER

Because of Timothy's earlier training by Lois and Eunice and the nurturing of Paul, what were some ways Timothy helped Paul?

Acts 19:21, 22 _____

¹ circumcision: a Jewish religious rite. Circumcision is not needed for salvation. Paul wanted Timothy to be accepted by the Jews so they could present the Gospel to them, he needed to circumcise him.

² decrees: a foreordained, eternal purpose of God. To order, adjudge, ordain, or appoint by law or edict.

I Corinthians 4:14-17 _____

I Corinthians 16:10, 11 _____

PERSONAL

Early training of a child will later equip him to be used by God. What daily steps are you making to insure that a godly heritage continues to the next generation?

SECTION 2 – Timothy’s Godly Training

Paul, while in prison for his faith, wrote to Timothy letters of encouragement and exhortation.

READ II Timothy 1:1-5 and II Timothy Chapter 3.

1. SUMMARIZE the relationship that grew between Paul and Timothy (II Timothy 1:1-4). _____

2. How did Paul describe Timothy’s faith (v. 5a)? _____

3. To whom did Paul attribute this source of faith (v. 5b)? _____

4. How did Paul describe the last days (II Timothy 3:1-9)? _____

5. What did Paul exhort Timothy to do in the last days (v. 5)? _____

6. How had Timothy followed Paul (vv. 10-13)? _____

7. What did Paul want Timothy to continue in (v. 14)? _____

8. What were the things Timothy had learned from his childhood (v. 15)? _____

Paul, because of the deception in the church at that time (and even today) exhorted Timothy to continue in the faith he had learned from his grandmother, mother and even from Paul himself (II Timothy 3:10-13). Paul gets Timothy to observe those godly people who had influenced his life: their solid characters, their genuine faith, and their unwavering walk would encourage him to continue in the faith.

9. What does II Timothy 3:16 say about the origin of the Scriptures? _____

3

What is Scripture profitable for? _____

10. Why is it important to study (II Timothy 3:17)? _____

PERSONAL

What did you learn from Eunice and Lois about the importance of studying God's Word? .

How will you apply it to your life? _____

³ inspiration: divinely breathed in; given by inspiration of God.

SECTION 3 – Our Godly Heritage

Timothy's godly heritage can be traced back to Lois and Eunice. By teaching Timothy God's Word, they both laid a foundation in his life. Paul was able to further build upon this firm foundation of faith. Our godly heritage may be traced back to a relative, friend, or acquaintance, who faithfully taught Christian precepts and prayed for us. They faithfully passed down their Christian faith by teaching their children and grandchildren from one generation to another.

Yet other people may just be beginning a godly heritage. Accepting Jesus by faith⁴, they become a first generation of Christians. They now seek to strongly influence their children in the Christian faith and begin the hard work of laying a firm foundation for future generations to come.

READ Psalm 127:1-5.

1. How does this Psalm instruct you in building a spiritual foundation for children (vv. 1, 2)? _____

2. What does God reveal about children (v. 3)? _____

3. As we faithfully train children in God's ways, what will they become (v. 4)? _____

4. What are the benefits of raising a godly heritage (v. 5)? _____

LOOK DEEPER

READ Psalm 128. What promises are given to the man who fears the Lord? _____

⁴ faith: the NIV translation renders it: *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see* (Hebrews 11:1). *So faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God* (Romans 10:17).

PERSONAL

Even though you may be faithful in teaching children God's Word, some will often go their own way which can be heartbreaking. WRITE the great promises given to those who have faithfully sown God's Word into the hearts of children.

Psalms 126:5, 6 _____

Proverbs 22:6 _____

Proverbs 31:28 _____

Isaiah 54:13 _____

Isaiah 55:8-11 _____

Which verse comforted your heart the most? _____

Like Lois and Eunice, different women throughout the Bible were known as faithful in what God called them to do. They left the end result to the Lord.

LOOK DEEPER

How were Mary the mother of Jesus and Elisabeth the mother of John the Baptist ministered to by the LORD (Luke 1:1-58)?

How did these godly women minister to each other during their pregnancies? _____

PERSONAL

Susanna Wesley trained and influenced all her children to walk in God's ways. She was the mother of John and Charles Wesley who God used to spark revival in England in the 18th century. Was there a mother, father, or some other relative in your life that was faithful in teaching you about Christ? What about other godly influences?

Thank God for them! Now WRITE out II Timothy 3:14. _____

How are you obeying this exhortation in your own life? _____

SECTION 4 – Our Godly Influence

Children are great imitators! They learn by example as they watch parents and others who can influence them. Paul told the believers to be imitators of him because he was an imitator of Christ (I Corinthians 4:16, Philippians 3:17).

Our faithfulness to God should be reflected in the way we raise our children or how we influence the children God has placed in our lives.

READ Proverbs Chapter 31.

It is believed that the following prophecy⁵ is instruction that King Solomon received from his mother, Bathsheba.

LIST the godly characteristics she taught him. _____⁶

⁵ prophecy: proclamation of the divine Word, first in oral form and sometimes recorded in writing.

⁶ Lemuel: belonging to God; name of Solomon.

2. What instruction is given to children, parents, servants, and masters?

Proverbs 29:15, 17 _____

Ephesians 6:1-4 _____

Titus 2:1-10 _____

3. What promise does God give to those who help the *least* in His kingdom (Matthew 25:31-40)? _____

In Jewish history, as soon as a child was born, the mother would whisper in the ear of her newborn child, *Yahweh is LORD!* By the time a young Jewish child is the age of twelve, he has memorized the first five books of the Old Testament. Reading line upon line through the Bible gives the full counsel of God to a child.

PERSONAL

If you are single or have no children of your own, what are some ways you can encourage and help other people's children grow in God's ways?

What are you doing for a child today that will matter in his future? _____

REFLECT back on Timothy's spiritual training. What impressed you most? _____

How are you continuing to train your own children and those around you in the ways of the Lord?

MEMORY VERSE

_____ (II Timothy 1:5).

Lois and Eunice were women who took the time and effort to sacrificially pour themselves into a child. Timothy reaped the benefits of a godly heritage, so did Paul and the early church. Our children are the future of the Church: to continue the Christian faith and to spread the Gospel. They are our godly heritage. As their spiritual mothers, we must be diligent to teach them the Scriptures and the ways of the Lord. May we be encouraged by Lois and Eunice to strongly influence the next generation because *the coming of the Lord is at hand!*



DORCAS, LYDIA, AND PRISCILLA: WOMEN IN THE EARLY CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

In the history of Christianity, the truly great characters have always been simple, humble men and women. They were disciples who gave of themselves as an expression of their love for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Each of the women in this study demonstrated her love and thanks to Jesus through her service to Him and to others. As we become a part of the Body of Christ¹ and choose to follow Jesus, we grow in appreciation of who He is and what He has done for us; as a result, we want to please Him and serve Him.

As you do this study, allow the Lord to speak to your heart and show you ways of serving and giving of yourself to Him. It has been said, *We only have one life to live and soon it will be past, but only that which is done for Christ will last.*

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him (Colossians 3:17).

¹ Body of Christ: refers to all believers in Christ who work together in unity for the Gospel of Christ (I Corinthians 12:12-27).

Names Given to the Women in this Story

Tabitha Dorcas	<i>Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas . . . (Acts 9:36).</i> Dorcas in Greek means gazelle; the female of a roebuck: a term of endearment. In Hebrew Dorcas means – Tabitha.
Lydia Seller of purple	<i>And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us . . . (Acts 16:14).</i> Thought to have been a Phoenician name which means – bending.
Priscilla	Paul <i>found a certain Jew named Aquila . . . with his wife Priscilla . . . (Acts 18:2).</i> Feminine form of <i>Priscus</i> which means – primitive, worthy or venerable ² , ancient, old-fashioned simplicity.

SECTION I – Dorcas, the Generous Disciple

READ Acts 9:32-43.

1. Who was Dorcas (v. 36)? _____ 3

_____ 4

Where is she from? _____

Joppa, now called Jaffa, was a busy seaport town on the Mediterranean coast. It was about thirty-five miles northwest of Jerusalem. Being the only harbor in Israel at the time, it became a town that housed the widows and orphans of many seamen.

PERSONAL

As a disciple, Dorcas' life reflected Christ in her actions; and in turn, touched the lives of many others. As a disciple of Christ, how is your life reflecting Him to others in what you do?

How does Matthew 5:14-16 instruct you as a follower of Christ? _____

² venerable: commanding respect because of great age or associated dignity.

³ disciple: learner, pupil, a follower of Christ.

⁴ almsdeeds: charitable gifts for the poor and needy.

2. As time went by, what happened to Dorcas (Acts 9:37)? _____

DESCRIBE the care given to her body. _____

3 Who was in the nearby town of Lydda and what was requested of him (v. 38)? _____

4. What may have prompted the people to summon Peter (Acts 9:32-35)? _____

5. When Peter arrived in Joppa, where Dorcas lie dead, what did he find (v. 39)? _____

PERSONAL

Dorcas' good works consisted of sewing clothes for the poor and widowed. She could have just given the needy her money. Why did these gifts demonstrate an even greater gift?

In what ways can you influence unbelievers for God around you? _____

LOOK DEEPER

Proverbs 31 describes a virtuous⁵ woman. Which characteristics might describe Dorcas? _____

6. As a follower of Christ, what did Peter do (Act 9:40)? _____

What miracle took place? _____

⁵ virtuous – Hebrew *chayil* an army: wealth, valor, strength, valiant.

7. What did Peter do next (v. 41)? _____

8. As news spread of Dorcas' resurrection, what happened (v. 42)? _____

Our ultimate goal in ministering to others is to point them to Jesus Christ and give all the glory to Him. We are never to draw people to ourselves.

LOOK DEEPER

NOTICE that neither Dorcas nor Peter received praise for the results. When a great act of God is done, why and how should the glory be given to Him?

I Corinthians 1:27-31 _____

I Peter 4:10, 11 _____

PERSONAL

How are you allowing God to freely work through your circumstances so those who hear will believe in the Lord? How are you giving glory and praise to God when He uses you?

9. As the people of Joppa believed on the Lord, what did Peter decide to do (Acts 9:43)? _____

⁶ Simon the tanner: a Christian convert with whom Peter lodged while in Joppa. The trade of a tanner was considered unclean by the Jews and not allowed to be carried on inside their towns.

LOOK DEEPER

Dorcas was an example of a woman who was a true believer. She obeyed the Word of God and served Him. According to the Word of God, what is pure and undefiled religion?

Deuteronomy 10:12 _____

Ecclesiastes 12:13 _____

Micah 6:8 _____

Matthew 25:31-40 _____

Mark 12:33 _____

James 1:27 _____

Dorcas' influence on those around her spread beyond the borders of her city. She became a great evangelist. Today there are Dorcas ministries all over the world that feed and clothe the needy. Because of her gratitude to her Savior, Dorcas dedicated her time and talents to her Lord.

PERSONAL

EXAMINE your activities and actions, how can you give more to the Lord Jesus Christ?

SECTION 2 – Lydia, a Worshipper of God

Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles⁷, traveled on his second missionary journey to Europe. It is here in the city of Philippi in Macedonia, that he preached the Gospel⁸, and the first European was converted.

READ Acts 16:6-40.

1. Why did Paul travel to Macedonia (vv. 9-12)? _____

⁷ Gentiles - Hebrew *goyim* surrounding nations; foreigners as opposed to Israel (Nehemiah 5:8). Greek *ethnos* a people or nation; in the plural it is used for the heathen.

⁸ Gospel: the good news of Jesus Christ.

What was Philippi? _____

2. On the Sabbath, where did Paul and his group go (v. 13)? _____

What was the usual activity that occurred here? _____

What did Paul's group do? _____

3. LIST the details given to us about the *certain woman* they met (v. 14)? _____

Lydia sold purple, a very costly cloth which was worn only by the rich and kings. There were no colors as gorgeous as the crimsons and purples of Thyatira. No doubt, she had a thriving successful business.

4. As Lydia accepted the Gospel through Paul's sharing, what did she do (Acts 16:15a)? _____

9

Who else, besides Lydia was baptized? _____

LOOK DEEPER

What does Jesus teach about baptism (Matthew 28:18-20)? _____

New believers in the newly forming church obeyed the Lord's command and were baptized. Who were they? What happened?

Acts 2:37-41 _____

Acts 8:5-13 _____

Act 8:26-40 _____

⁹ baptized - Greek *baptymos* to dip or immerse: immersion of a believer in water as a sign of his identifying with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.

Acts 9:1-20 _____

Acts 18:1-8 _____

Acts 19:1-8 _____

What is the significance of baptism?

Romans 6:3, 4 _____

I Corinthians 12:13 _____

Galatians 3:27 _____

Colossians 2:12 _____

I Peter 3:21 _____

5. In what way did Lydia show her thankfulness to the Lord (Acts 16:15b)? _____
- _____
- _____

We show our gratitude and love to the Lord by loving and serving those He loves (John 13:34, 35).

6. Paul and his group were persuaded to visit with Lydia and her household. What happened as they went to prayer (Acts 16:16-24)?

10

7. As Paul and Silas began to pray and sing in prison, what did the Lord do? How did He use them (vv. 25-39)?

¹⁰ spirit of divination: the practice of obtaining secret knowledge especially of the future; inspirational divination by demonic power whereas genuine prophecy is by the Spirit of God.

8. What did Paul and Silas do when they returned to Lydia's house (v. 40)? _____

Lydia and her family became the nucleus of the European church. The church of Philippi began in her home. Her home was a blessing to all who visited. She served the Lord with gladness.

I [Jesus] AM among you as He that serveth (Luke 22:27).

SECTION 3 – Priscilla, a Fellow Servant

Paul continued on his second missionary journey in Europe and went to various cities preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles. After Philippi, he went to Thessalonica, where there was a great multitude of converts. Paul and his group continued on to Berea, where again, many came to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. The next city, Athens, brought a poor reception due to the fact that it was home to some of the world's greatest philosophers of the time.

READ Acts 18:1-28.

1. After Paul left Athens, where did he go (v. 1)? _____¹¹

2. Who did Paul find in Corinth (v. 2)? _____

Where was this couple coming from? _____

Why did Priscilla and her husband have to leave Rome? _____

3. Where did Paul stay while in Corinth (v. 3)? _____

What did Paul have in common with Priscilla and her husband? _____

4. SUMMARIZE Paul's ministry in Corinth (vv. 4-17). _____

5. Where did Paul travel next (v. 18)? _____

Who went with him? _____

¹¹ Corinth: Greece's most splendid commercial city located just south of the narrow isthmus connecting central Greece with Peloponnesus.

Paul and this couple had a common bond, it was stronger than just having the same occupation. As they worked together at tentmaking and in evangelistic outreaches, Priscilla and Aquila had the opportunity to be taught and trained by the Apostle Paul, the early church's greatest Bible teacher.

6. Paul reasoned with the Jews at Ephesus, and then continued his missionary journey. Where did Paul leave Priscilla and her husband (vv. 19-23)?

7. After Paul left who arrived in Ephesus (vv. 24-26a)?

DESCRIBE Apollos.

8. In what way did Priscilla and her husband minister to Apollos (vv. 26b-28)?

How did it make Apollos more effective?

Although Priscilla had a household to manage, she still found time to be a thorough student of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

9. For several years, Priscilla and Aquila were leaders in the Ephesian church. What did Paul affectionately and gratefully write about them in his letters to the churches?

Romans 16:3-5

I Corinthians 16:19, 20

2 Timothy 4:19

PERSONAL

Priscilla and her husband showed their love for God by loving and honoring Paul. How do you honor the servants of the Lord that God has placed in your life?

LOOK DEEPER

How do the following Scriptures admonish you to honor the servants of the Lord?

I Thessalonians 5:12, 13 _____

I Timothy 5:17 _____

Hebrews 13:17, 18 _____

PERSONAL

Jesus said in Mark 10:45 *For even the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.* Jesus expressed His love for us by giving His life for us. God has created you for an eternal purpose, how are you serving the Lord in communion with Him? With your talents and service?

MEMORY VERSE

_____ (Colossians 3:17).

Through Dorcas, Lydia, Priscilla, and disciples of the Lord, we learn the heart of ministry. Christ was the great example of true servanthood. As these women surrendered their lives fully to Jesus, they took on His character, the one of a servant. Through their devoted lives and many others like them, the Gospel has been spread throughout the world.

NOTES: _____

If you wish to receive any of the studies on WOMEN IN HIS IMAGE write to:

Somebody Loves You Publishing, 22324 Golden Springs Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765
(909) 396-1884 FAX: (909) 396-0553 Email: slymediagroup@somebodylovesyou.com

All Scripture found in this study is from the King James Bible unless noted otherwise.

Due to the holy nature of God, the first letter of all references to Him,
His holy name, and His Word have been capitalized.

This study may be copied, reproduced, or duplicated with written permission.

©1997 Prepared by: Somebody Loves You Publishing

© 2002 – Second Print

© 2008 – Revised