

Women & The Word

Jesus forgave a woman “who loved much.” There are so many incredible women throughout Scripture. Today, we’ll consider women who followed and supported Jesus. Would we do the same? Do we follow Him? What kind of soil best represents us?

Note: I’ve enjoyed and recommend Mark E. Moore’s “The Chronological Life of Christ.” Some of my comments can be found in his material by coincidence (he’s not the only one making such observations articulated in his material), and other times, I’ve leaned on his accurate and helpful observations. He’s done an excellent job making 1st-century culture and practices available.

There are no events between our last lesson and today:

Women Of Faith (Luke 8:1-3)

- Moore thinks this section “opens the door to Jesus’ second Galilean tour, and it opens a window on Jesus’ ministry.”
- *What grabs my attention:*
 - Luke seems to emphasize women. Who are they?
 - Mary Magdalene:
 - Healed of demon possession.
 - She was the first to see Jesus resurrected (Mark 16:9; John 20:11-18).
 - Joanna:
 - Herod’s household manager.
 - Like several other women, she would witness Jesus’ crucifixion and empty tomb (Luke 23:49).
 - Susanna:
 - She’s only mentioned here. We don’t know anything about her other than she followed Jesus. That’s all that matters at the end of the day. That’s true for all of us.
 - Many others:
 - Mark 15:40-41 includes other women who traveled with Jesus and witnessed His death and empty tomb.
- Application: Everyone plays their part.
 - Jesus does the heavy lifting, but everyone should have skin in the game. Whether people know you or not isn’t that important. Do you know Jesus? Does He know you?

Insert Jesus’ discussion concerning blasphemy of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:22-37; Mark 3:20-30; Luke 11:14-23). Then Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for seeking a sign (Matthew 12:38-42; Luke 11:24-36).

Jesus' Family (19-21)

- We'll do this out of order for a better flow and because Matthew and Mark have it next in chronological order. Mark's account also notes how His family (before Jesus is accused of being possessed) went out to seize Him because they thought He was out of His mind.
- *What grabs my attention:*
 - It's wild how Jesus' own family struggled to accept Him.
 - Jesus isn't concerned about hurting His family's feelings, though that is not His aim.
- *Application:*
 - Jesus' own family was divided over Him (John 7:5).
 - The English proverb "Blood is thicker than water" has had many interpretations. However, one of the earliest interpretations appeared as a German proverb. It meant that spiritual family through baptism is not stronger than family ties through blood. If this is true, we need to acknowledge it was a false saying. Think about how meaningful Jesus' teaching has been through the years. All those men and women who didn't have a family of their own have experienced this truth for over 2,000 years. It's a short passage, but it means everything to many.

The Parable Of The Sower & The Lamp (4-15)

- Matthew and Mark inform us that Jesus taught by the Sea of Galilee from a boat. This is going to be a long day for Jesus. It's already been riddled with debate and accusations. Doubters are in Jesus' midst.
- Jesus considers this parable as foundational. In fact, in Mark 4:13, Jesus asks the question, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?"
- *What grabs my attention:*
 - Jesus purposely teaches in parables on this day (compare with Matthew and Mark). He's doing this so that many would not hear and see. These people are like those in Isaiah's day. It's not that Jesus wouldn't help at all. We see in Mark 4:10 how Jesus explained the parable to some disciples and the 12 apostles. But Jesus is being accused and rejected by many in the crowd, so He is rejecting them. Yet, anyone had the opportunity to hear, think, and ask.
- *Application:*
 - This was a real-time parable. We need to look inward and answer with sincerity.
 - Now read vs.16-18. God can give increase or can decrease what we have. The choice is up to us, but God will respond accordingly.
 - We began this study by considering the beautiful faith of a group of women. Some you know and some you do not. However, the goal is to be known by Christ. To truly know the Son of Man. The goal is to truly hear Him, follow, and serve Jesus. Who are you? You are known by who you follow.