

Foundational Truths Delivered First by Women

Martha and Mary Magdalene and Their Powerful Proclamations



he two foundational truths in the Christian faith are **Jesus is the Messiah** and **Jesus is Risen!** Without these two basic tenets of the faith, there is no faith. Without these two truths, Christianity is just another belief system without any assurance of hope. See 1 Cor. 15:12-20

Who were the first persons to deliver these messages, to proclaim these truths upon which our faith is founded?

You might be surprised to discover that it was women! And the women Jesus chose for those tasks are often remembered for the wrong things, are misinterpreted, or simply overlooked. Let's change that!

Use the back of this sheet to record your answers.

Martha of Bethany - What We Think We Know - Luke 10:38-42

1. What is the basic story here?

2. A Surprising Detail in older translations
The use of the word "also" in vv. 39-40 (see below) paints a different picture of Martha's activity in the story. What do you think?

KJV: "And she had a sister called Mary, which *also* sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. but Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him"
Rheims: "And she had a sister called Mary, who sitting *also* at the Lord's feet, heard his word. But Martha was busy about much serving. Who stood and said."

Martha - What We've Overlooked

3. Here is the story of Martha that gives her a special place in history, yet often overlooked. Read John 11:1-12:9. List all the different people present in this story.

4. Note that the story takes place in public with people gathered at the tomb of Lazarus, not in a private setting. Martha's public confession could have caused the religious officials to want to stone her

for blasphemy. How courageous are we to talk about our faith in public?

5. Jesus has never asked for this confession in *public* before! What does he tell his male disciples in Matthew 16:13-20; Mark 8:27-30, and Luke 9:18-21?

Did you know Jesus chose women to be the first to give a public Messianic confession and the first to see the Resurrected Christ and to deliver the Resurrection News?

Let's choose to remember Martha as the first person Jesus allowed to give a public Messianic Confession and not as the bossy sister.

Mary Magdalene - Misunderstood for Millennia! What We Think We Know - A pope in the 6th century gave a sermon claiming Mary Magdalene was a prostitute even though there is no biblical evidence for that. The Catholic Church officially changed that teaching in 1969 (!) but the misplaced reputation is still assumed.

Mary Magdalene - What We've Overlooked

6. What do we learn about Mary's life and response to Jesus in Luke 8:1-3? Note: the number seven often meant "complete" or "whole" indicating her total corruption.

7. Compare her devotion in these passages to that of the male disciples: Matthew 27:55-56,61
Mark 15:40-41,47; 16:1-9; Luke 24:10 (implied in v. 25); John 20:1-18

8. What did Jesus commission her to do? This gives her a unique place in history and earned her the title "Apostle to the Apostle"

Jesus chose to appear first to a woman after his resurrection. And not even his mother! He chose Mary Magdalene - who once suffered from the worst possible corruption. **Mary Magdalene was the first witness to the Resurrected Christ and the first person Jesus commissioned to tell the Resurrection News! And THAT matters!**