

How Jesus Changed The World

#4: How Jesus Changed The Way We View Women

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2. How _____

John 4:27 *Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked to find him talking to a woman, but none of them had the nerve to ask, "What do you want with her?" or "Why are you talking to her?"*

*Jesus showed that women are _____ to God

Galatians 3:28 *There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

*Jesus taught that women are equal _____

Galatians 3:29 *If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

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Matthew 12:49-50 *Then he pointed to his disciples and said, "Look, these are my mother and brothers. Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother!"*

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Luke 8:1-3 *Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene)... Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.*

3. Understand how the world still is

Isaiah 1:17 *Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.*

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Luke 10:39-42 Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me." But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her."

Positive Female Examples Used By Jesus

- The Queen of the south, who was wiser than the first-century Jews ([Matt 12:42](#))
- The woman mixing yeast into dough ([Matt. 13:33](#)), who is presented as an illustration of the way that the kingdom of God works[9]
- Women working when Christ returns, some of who are ready and others are not ([Matt. 24:41](#))
- Ten virgins, of whom five were prepared and five were not ([Matt 25:1-13](#))
- The widow of Zarephath, whom Jesus used as an example of a Gentile that God favored ([Luke 4:26](#))
- The woman who found the coin she had lost ([Luke 15:8-10](#)). In this parable the woman plays the role of God, just as the shepherd did in the preceding parable and the father does in the following parable.[10]
- A persistent widow ([Luke 18:1-8](#)), a model for disciples to imitate in prayer
- A widow who gave everything she had ([Luke 21:1-4](#)).

Want to learn more?

"How Christianity Changed The World" by Alvin J Schmidt
"What if Jesus had never been born?" by Dr. D. James Kennedy
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Conservative and liberal commentators are generally agreed on this: Jesus treated women well—despite the male-dominated culture in which he lived. He treated them respectfully, was sensitive to their needs, used them as good examples of faith, and included them in his ministry in several important ways.

"I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

Women as positive spiritual examples

"Women were employed by Jesus quite freely as illustrations in His teaching," Borland notes.[7] "This is in stark contrast to the rabbis of the day. One looks in vain in their teachings for even one story or sermon illustration that mentions women," Linda Belleville adds.[8] In many of Jesus' illustrations, women are presented as positive role models of faith, which men should follow. For example:

Galatians 4:7 *So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.*

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In Luke 11, an anonymous woman called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you" (v. 27). Jesus did not deny that his own mother was blessed, but he said that the real blessing is given to "those who hear the word of God and obey it" (v. 28). A woman's spiritual worth is based on her response to God, not in performing biological functions. Women are saved by faith, not by bearing children.

"Jesus did two important things" for this woman, Borland writes. "He gave her His undivided attention by listening to her comment, and He mildly corrected her and pointed her toward further spiritual understanding.... Jesus does not deny His mother's place of importance, but goes beyond it to a wider spiritual truth." [11]

"Christ never belittled the role of a mother," JoAnn Davidson observes, but he "refused to limit a woman's horizon to nurturing family and cooking." [12]

Jesus made a similar point when people told him that his mother and brothers wanted to speak to him ([Matt. 12:47](#)). He replied that the disciples were his real family: "Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother" (vv. 49-50). Spiritual response is more important than biological origin. Jesus expanded the response to include "sister," even though the original comment did not mention sisters; by doing so he implied that women were spiritually on an equal footing with men.

Shortly before Jesus was arrested and killed, a woman [13] anointed him with a large amount of expensive perfume. The disciples grumbled about the expense, but Jesus praised the woman: "She has done a beautiful thing to me.... I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her" ([Matt. 26:10, 13](#)). What she did is a great illustration for *all* disciples: unrestrained devotion. Jesus said to the woman who anointed him, "Your faith has saved you" ([Luke 7:50](#)),

and the fact that this story is preserved in the Gospels means that her faith is an example to us today.

Similarly, a Canaanite woman was praised for having great faith ([Matt. 15:28](#)).^[14] As a non-Israelite, she had no claim to any favors from him, but she appealed for grace and mercy. Hurley writes, "He shows respect for the faith of this woman and for her argument. He took women seriously."^[15]

Female disciples identified in the New Testament

The New Testament, particularly the epistles, names a number of women who were followers of Jesus, such as:

Mary Magdalene—	Luke 8:2–3, Mark 15:40, Matthew 27:56, John 19:25,	and	Luke 23:49
Mary, the mother of James and Joses—	Matthew 27:55–56		
Mary, the mother of	Jesus		
Mother of Zebedee's sons—	Matthew 27:55–56		
Priscilla—	Romans 16:3		
Salome—	Mark 16:1		
Sisters Mary and Martha—	Luke 10:38, John 11:1–44		
Tabitha/Dorcas—	Acts 9:36		
Widow of	Nain—	Luke 7:11–17	
Woman bent double—	Luke 13:10–17		
Woman with an issue of blood—	Matthew 10:20		