

CHRISTLICHE MISSIONARISCHE GEMEINSCHAFT INTERNATIONAL – DEUTSCHLAND
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THE RELIABILITY OF WOMEN

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Jesus Has Risen

Matthew 28:1-10

28 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. **3** His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. **4** The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. **6** He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. **7** Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. **9** Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. **10** Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." *New International Version (NIV)*

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:16-20

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.

17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. **18** Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." *New International Version (NIV)*

After the death and burial of the Lord Jesus, the women who were serving Jesus and were always with him during his ministry went to his grave. They yearned for their master and wanted to anoint him. There was Mary Magdalene and another woman also called Mary. They met an angel at the grave, who told them the good news that the Lord Jesus had risen from the dead. They hurried as fast as they could with excitement in their hearts, to deliver this great news. These women had such a strong burden in their hearts to deliver this great news.

This passage reveals to us how important the women were in times of need. This moment was one of the times in the bible where Jesus needed people whom he could trust. During this moment, his closest disciples were not present.

We can analyse this from the very beginning. The news that Jesus would be born, was given to a woman. The preparation of the coming of Jesus on earth, was revealed to a woman. We do

not read much about Joseph, but the bible says that many experiences that Mary went through, she kept in her heart.

When we look at the life of Jesus and his ministry, he chose men as his disciples. The Lord Jesus sought God before he chose his disciples and God led Him to choose these men. There were no woman amongst them however, the bible explains that during His ministry, there were women who were with him - to minister to him. There were rich women who were with him and these served Jesus. There were women like Mary Magdalene who were there serving the Lord Jesus.

Matthew 27:55

"55 Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. 56 Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph,[f] and the mother of Zebedee's sons".New International Version (NIV)

We know that many of the Lord Jesus's disciples abandoned him during the most difficult time of his life when he was going to be crucified. The only disciple who remained with Him was John. Peter tried to follow him a bit, but he eventually abandoned Jesus. Generally, you will know who you can rely on the most during such hard times. During such hard moments, the Lord Jesus needed to be shown love, but instead He was abandoned. For Jesus, it was the women who he could rely on. These women did not have any big positions, but during hard times, Jesus could rely on them. Jesus did not only count on the fact that they would love him, but he could also rely on them.

When Jesus was buried, his twelve disciples did not take time to anoint him. The person who took time to do this was Joseph from Arimathea. The people who were with him mostly during His ministry were not even there to anoint Him. They were afraid! On the other hand, we see that the women were always present. The women's reliability made it possible - that a very important message could go out to the disciples through them.

These woman came with love to the Lord Jesus's grave. They wanted to anoint Him before His body began to decay. When they came to the grave, the angel told them that Jesus had resurrected from the dead. What would have happened if these women had not come to the grave and if they had not heard the news of the resurrection? Would the disciples of Jesus learn about this news if the women had not been at the grave? Maybe Jesus would have revealed himself personally to His disciples, BUT they would not have heard it from another source.

Jesus had continuously told his disciples that He would rise from the dead on the third day. These women were the first witnesses to the fulfilment of this word. They were witnesses and could testify that Jesus was no longer in the grave on the third day. The Lord Jesus revealed Himself to His disciples, but that was after the third day. Even when He revealed himself, they

still doubted. Even if the Lord Jesus would have explained to his disciples that He rose on the third day, it is not certain that they would have believed him. The fact that the women were there on the third day, made it possible for them to witness His resurrection and to deliver a message to His disciples. The message of the prophets was confirmed because these women were present at the grave on the third day. Their reliability made it possible for this word to be confirmed. These women were so full of faith, such that they were ready to reveal the news about the resurrection of Jesus even before seeing him. When Jesus revealed himself to them, they did not doubt BUT they worshipped him instead. These women received a commission to tell the disciples to go to Galilee. This was another confirmation to the word spoken by Jesus to his disciples that they would encounter Jesus in Galilee. Before they heard the message from the Lord Jesus, they heard it from the women. I believe the Lord Jesus was happy about the commitment of the women such that Jesus said He would not let these women go without revealing Himself to them. When He appeared to the women, He confirmed the angel's message - about the disciples going to Galilee.

If these women had gone to the disciples and told them that they had seen an angel and received a message for the disciples, the disciples might not have believed this message. This is because in the Jewish culture, women did not have much authority and as a result, what they would have said may not have been taken seriously. However, as Jesus appeared to them and confirmed the word of the angel, these women had proof beyond doubt that Jesus had resurrected from the dead. No matter what people would say, these women would have the confidence that the message they had received was from Jesus and that He had risen from the dead.

After Jesus revealed Himself to his disciples, some even doubted. We see that the woman on the other hand did not doubt but worshipped Jesus. They knew Jesus from their heart. They knew his voice. No matter what he may have looked like, (*He might have had a different appearance*), they knew that it was Him. There was a connection between the hearts of these women and Jesus. The best thing is the women were given the commission to tell the disciples to go to Galilee. Later, Jesus had to remind his disciples to go to Galilee again. In Galilee, that is where the disciples received the great commission **to make disciples of all nations**.

Women, we must take ourselves seriously because the way God looks at us is special. God desires people who are reliable. God desires people who can be at the place where He wants them to be and people who can do the job assigned to them. He seeks people who will change the world through obedience. We must realise that when men are not where God wants them to be, He can use women to prepare the way for His work, so that the commission that He has given men can be fulfilled. By being reliable and dependable, God can use women to pray for men so that they can come to the point where God desires.

We see women like Anna the prophetess who were constantly in intercession. She was there praying so that the kingdom of God would come on earth. Her prayers made it possible for the way of the Lord Jesus to be prepared, before His birth. Let us begin to believe that God can use us to do His work. Let us learn from these women who are in the bible. Amen!