

**Palmetto Baptist Church – April 21, 2019**  
**Responding to the Resurrection – Luke 24:1-10**

**fan: an enthusiastic admirer.**

In the Gospels, Jesus never seemed too interested in fans.

Is that how you define your relationship with Him? An "enthusiastic admirer"? Close enough to Jesus to get the benefits but not so close to require sacrifice?

He was looking for followers. Not just any follower though, but a...

**COMPLETELY. COMMITTED. FOLLOWER.**

How would things change if you lived as Jesus lived, and loved the way He loved?

Maybe you're ready to join the hundreds of people who have stepped across a line and said:

**I am not a fan.<sup>1</sup>**

## **Characteristics of genuine followers of Christ Jesus:**

- **They are connected to other followers of Jesus.**
- **They are devoted to the truth discovered about Jesus. (1-9)**
- **They are impacted by the grace offered by Jesus. (10)**
  
- **They were connected to other followers of Jesus. ("they" or "them" found 13x)**

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, **they** went to the tomb, taking the spices **they** had prepared. <sup>2</sup>And **they** found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when **they** went in **they** did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup>While **they** were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by **them** in dazzling apparel. <sup>5</sup>And as **they** were frightened and bowed **their** faces to the ground, the men said to **them**, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup>He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup>that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." <sup>8</sup>And **they** remembered his words,<sup>9</sup>and returning from the tomb **they** told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup>Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, <sup>11</sup>but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe **them**. <sup>12</sup>But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

- **The woman followed Jesus through the Via Dolorosa, "the way of sorrow." (Luke 23:26-32)**
- **The woman watched Jesus be crucified... the following were specifically named from the group:**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.notafan.com/>

- **Matt. 27:56** – (1) Mary Magdalene, (2) Mary the mother of James and Joses the mother of Zebedee’s children.
- **Mark 15:40** – (1) Mary Magdalene, (2) Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, (3) Salome,
- **Luke 24:10** – (1) Mary Magdalene, (2) Joanna, and (3) Mary the mother of James.
- **John 19:25** – (1) Mary the mother of Jesus, (2) her sister (Mary the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee), (3) Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.
- **The woman watched Joseph of Arimathea take Jesus down from the cross (Matt. 27:59) and followed him as he met up with Nicodemus (John 19:39 with the 100 lbs mixture of myrrh and aloes) at the brand new tomb he [Joseph] purchased for the temporary burial of Jesus.**
  - Nicodemus was a “master of Israel” (John 3:10) – most likely an older man... it was unlikely that Nicodemus carried the 100 lbs mixture to the Golgatha and then to the tomb.
  - Perhaps during Nicodemus’ conversation with Jesus at night (John 3), Nicodemus was provoked to read Isaiah 53. Verse 9 states that Jesus would make his grave with the wicked but then be buried with the rich (and with the rich in his death).
  - Nicodemus knew he would be crucified (“the son of man will be lifted up” – John 3:14).
  - They would conclude that a grave needed to be purchased in a tract nearby where they could bury him quickly when the time came.
- **The women were the first ones at the tomb on Sunday. (Luke 24:1)**

### Application:

- **Are you connected to other followers of Jesus?**
  - Join PBC
  - Participate in our summer session of Shepherding Groups.
  
- ***They were connected to other followers of Jesus.***
  
- **They were devoted to the truth *discovered* about Jesus. (1-9)**
  - Jesus is in the grave. (1)
  - The tomb is opened. (2)

- The body of Jesus was gone. (3)
- Two angelic messengers rebuked them. (4-7)
  - Human response:
    - They were perplexed. (4)
      - To be at loss, to be uncertain, to be anxious
    - They were afraid. (5)
      - Terrified, very much afraid, pertaining to being extremely afraid
  - Grace-based response
    - They submitted to the truth. (8)
    - They proclaimed the truth. (9)

**Application:**

**Illustration:** Facing a difficult diagnosis. Finding out that the relationship you once enjoyed is now on the brink of disaster. Receiving word that you owe money on your school bill and you have no idea where it's going to come from.

- **Are you devoted to the truth *discovered* about Christ Jesus? (1-9)**
  - Respond to the truth you know.
  - Reflect on the truth.
  - Submit to the truth.

- ***They were connected to other followers of Christ Jesus.***
- ***They were devoted to the truth discovered about Christ Jesus. (1-9)***
  
- **They were impacted by the grace offered by Christ Jesus (10)<sup>2</sup>**
  - **Growing in Grace**
    - We were saved by grace. (Eph. 2:8-9)
    - We are strengthened by grace. (2 Tim. 2:1-4)
    - We can endure suffering because of grace. (2 Cor. 12:7-10)
    - Motivates generosity when resources are limited. (2 Cor. 8:1ff)
    - Energizes worship when the worshiper is struggling. (Col. 3:16)
  - **Mary Magdalene**
    - *Family Connections*—We have no record of Mary’s parentage, her marital status or her age. That she was free to follow Jesus in His journeyings would suggest that she had no home obligations.
    - Healed from demon possession (Luke 8:2)
    - From Magdala – during the time of Christ, Magdala was a thriving, populous town on the coast of Galilee about 3 miles from Capernaum. Dye works and primitive textile factories added to the wealth of the community. It is assumed that Mary was somehow a recipient of that wealth.
    - She is mentioned 14x in the gospels. In 8 of the 14 passages, her name heads the list. 5x she is mentioned alone in connection with the death and resurrection of Jesus (Mk 16:9; Jn. 20:1, 11, 16, 18). In one instance her name comes after that of the mother of Jesus and the aunt of Jesus (John 19:25.) NO WOMAN, HOWEVER, SUPERSEDED MARY IN HER UTTER DEVOTION TO THE MASTER!
    - In the renowned picture gallery in the Louvre, there is a painting of desolation, despair and love. The artist has depicted the night of the crucifixion. “The world is wrapped in shadow; the stars are dead; and yet in the darkness is seen a kneeling form. It is Mary Magdalene with loving lips and hands pressing against the bleeding feet of Christ.” Yes, she was there when they crucified her Lord.
    - She was last at the cross and first at the tomb.
    - She was the first to speak with Jesus after His resurrection (Mark 16:9).
      - Read John 20:1-2 and 11-18.
- Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/all-women-bible/Chapter-2-Alphabetical>

loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

## ● Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

- <sup>11</sup>But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. <sup>12</sup>And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. <sup>13</sup>They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." <sup>14</sup>Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, <sup>17</sup>"Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>18</sup>Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>19</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.

### ○ Joanna

- Only other direct mentioned of Joanna in Scripture is Luke 8:3.
  - She too was healed from demon possession (Luke 8:3)
- Wife of Chuza, Herod's steward [steward = "tutor" (Matt. 20:8) or "guardian" (Gal. 4:2)]. No doubt Chuza was an intelligent man who most likely kept the financial records for Herod.
  - Most connect Chuza to the nobleman in John 4:46-54.
    - If so, Chuza and Joanna were dramatically impacted by the miracle performed by Jesus in restoring their son to health!
- Joanna was present at the crucifixion (Luke 24:10).
- Joanna proclaimed the good news about the resurrection with the other ladies.
  - *Perhaps the source of information about the beheading of John the Baptist.*
  - Most likely influential in the salvation of Manaen, a future leader of the church in Antioch who was from Herod's house (Acts 13:1).

### ○ Mary the mother of James (not Mary the mother of James and John – the two disciples known as the "Sons of Thunder" [Matthew 27:55-56])

<sup>55</sup>There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, <sup>56</sup>among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph **and** the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

We are told practically nothing about this particular Mary, save that she was the mother of two children one of whom Jesus chose as an apostle, namely, James ([Matthew 27:55-61](#); [Mark 15:40, 47; 16:1](#); [Luke 24:10](#), see [Luke 23:49-56](#)). Some writers identify her as "the other Mary" ([Matthew 27:61](#)), or as the wife of Cleopas or Alphaeus ([Matthew 10:3](#); [Luke 24:18](#)), or as a sister of Mary, the mother of Jesus. We do know that she was

one of the women who followed Jesus and, having sufficient wealth, ministered unto Him and His disciples in material things thereby assisting them in their work ([Luke 8:2, 3](#)). The narrative suggests that her two fine sons likewise followed her from Galilee to Jerusalem. “It is interesting to note that two mothers with their sons joined the company of the disciples and that three out of the four became members of the apostolic group.” We feel that Mary’s sons were older than Jesus else they probably would not have dared to interfere with Him by force ([Mark 3:21](#)). These facts are evident—

Mary was among the women from Galilee who followed Jesus to Jerusalem there to witness His death on the cross ([Matthew 27:56](#); [Mark 15:40](#)).

She was likewise a spectator at the tomb and fled when told by the angels that Jesus was not there ([Mark 16:8](#)).

She was among the first to bear spices to anoint the dear dead body of her Lord, and with joy went forth to declare that He was alive forevermore.

She was the mother of a son who became an apostle, known as “James the Less,” or James the Little to distinguish him from the more conspicuous apostle of the same name. She thus sacrificed both her sustenance and her son for the service of the Master. Motivated by the inner urge of gratitude to Him for all He had done for her, she became generous, faithful, loving and true. Hers was a simple faith and a trusting love. Thousands of Christian women down the ages have been likened to her because she loved her Lord and served Him unobtrusively. Kuyper, comparing this Mary with Mary Magdalene by an analogy of our two types of letters, calls Mary Magdalene “a vowel” and Mary, the mother of the apostle, “a consonant.”

The same analogy holds if we compare Peter with James the Less. We should then name Peter, who always took the initiative, the vowel, and James, who always remained in the background, the consonant. This Mary and those other quiet women were very much like James. They were consonants, they harmoniously joined in with the song of love that was sung for Jesus, but they were not originally creative.

Then applying this analogy and pointing out that the world generally deems quiet, unobtrusive and ordinary service somewhat tame and unambitious, Kuyper goes on to remark—

But God’s scale of values weighs differently than ours does. In our alphabet, God gave us five vowels and twenty-one consonants. And He has given the human race very few people to assume the solo parts. To the many others He has granted only the capacity to harmonize when others lead in creation’s hymn of love and praise. That situation is quite appropriate. Only in that way can a supreme harmony be attained. A company of successive soloists would be repulsive to our aesthetic taste.

The question is, Am I content to be a *consonant*?

## ○ The other women with them

### Mary the mother of the sons of Zebedee

- Sister of Mary, the mother of Jesus (John 19:25)
- This would explain why she felt the liberty to ask Jesus to make her sons, James and John the greatest in the Kingdom (Matt. 20:20-28).
  - Mary and Zebedee were willing to allow their sons to leave the family business (Matt. 4:21-22)
  - With regard to greatness, James was the first to be martyred (Acts 12:2) and John became the last of the Apostles to die... he also authored the Gospel of John, I-III John, and Revelation.

## Mary the mother of Jesus

*Family Connections*—According to the sacred record, Mary was a humble village woman who lived in a small town, a place so insignificant as to lead Nathanael to say, “Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?” ([John 1:46](#)), but out of it, and from the womb of the peasant woman came the greatest Man the world has ever known. Mary was of the tribe of Judah, and the line of David. In the royal genealogy of Matthew and the human genealogy of Luke, Mary is only mentioned in the former, but her immediate forebears are not mentioned. She became the wife of Joseph, the son of Heli ([Luke 3:23](#)). Apart from Jesus, called her “first-born,” a term implying that other children followed after the order of natural generation ([Luke 2:7](#)). As a virgin, Mary bore Christ in a miraculous way, and Elisabeth most spontaneously and unaffectedly gave her the most honorable of titles, “Mother of the Lord” and praised her unstintedly as one, “Blessed among women.” Later Mary was married to Joseph the carpenter and she bore him four sons and several daughters, the former being named—James, Joses, Judas and Simon, and the daughters unnamed ([Matthew 13:55, 56; Mark 6:3](#)). During His ministry, none of His brothers believed in Him. In fact, they sneered at Him, and once concluded that He was mad, and wished to arrest Him and take Him away from Capernaum ([Mark 3:21, 31; John 7:3-5](#)). But as the result of His death and Resurrection, His brothers became believers, and were among the number gathered in the Upper Room before Pentecost. None of His brothers was an apostle during His lifetime ([Acts 1:13, 14](#)).

### Application:

- **Have you been impacted by the grace offered by Christ Jesus (10)**
  - Initial salvation.
    - Surrender your life to Christ Jesus.
  - Progressive sanctification. (Nicodemus who came to Jesus by night; Mary Magdalene; Mary the mother of James; and Joanna)
    - Surrender your children.
    - Surrender your finances.
    - Surrender your future.