**Who were the women at the tomb?**

A group of women followed Jesus from His ministry in Galilee to the last day of His life. They faithfully supported Jesus from their own means ([Luke 8:2-3](https://elizabethgeorge.com/products/one-word-themes)). They witnessed the worst moment in history— Jesus’ gruesome death— and observed the desertion of His fearful disciples.

The women at the tomb also witnessed Jesus’ resurrection. Their experience at the tomb appears in each of the four Gospels. The names of these courageous and faithful women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, Mary the mother of James, Salome, and “other women” who were not identified.



**Luke 8:1-3  
1Soon afterward he went on**[***n***](https://www.esv.org/Mk6.6)**through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, 2and also**[***p***](https://www.esv.org/Lk23.49%3BLk23.55%3BMt27.55%3BMk15.40-41%3BAc1.14)**some women who had  been healed of evil spirits and infirmities:**[***q***](https://www.esv.org/Lk24.10%3BMt27.56%3BMt27.61%3BMt28.1%3BJn19.25%3BJn20.1%3BJn20.18)**Mary, called Magdalene,**[***r***](https://www.esv.org/Mk16.9)**from whom seven demons had gone out, 3and**[***s***](https://www.esv.org/Lk24.10)**Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod’s household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them**[***1***](https://www.esv.org/verses/Luke%208%3A1%E2%80%933/#f1-)**out of their means.**

**The Story of the Women at the Tomb**

**The faithfulness of the Women at the Tomb—**[**Luke 23:54-56**](https://elizabethgeorge.com/products/one-word-themes)



The disciples had deserted Jesus, but these women lingered at the cross to the very end. They observed a man wrapping up Jesus’ body. They then followed this man at a distance to see where Jesus was buried. It was sundown, so they returned home to prepare spices for a proper burial.

**Luke 23:50-56 50 Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, 51 who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, and he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God. 52 Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body. 53 Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. 54 It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.  
55 The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. 56 Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.**

**The follow-through of the Women at the Tomb—**[**Matthew 28:1-2**](https://elizabethgeorge.com/products/one-word-themes)

These women rose before daylight and traveled alone to the tomb. When they arrived, they found the stone rolled away. They entered the tomb but found it empty ([Luke 24:3](https://elizabethgeorge.com/products/one-word-themes)). Suddenly an angel appeared.

**Luke 24:3  
 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus**

**The revelation of the Women at the Tomb—**[**Matthew 28:5-6**](https://elizabethgeorge.com/products/one-word-themes)

The *faithful band of women* were the first to see the proof of Jesus’ resurrection. The angel said, “He is not here; for He is risen. . . . Come, see the place where the Lord lay” (v. 6). They were then instructed to tell the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead.

**Matthew 28:5-7   
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.”**

**The Women at the Tomb's response—**[**Matthew 28:8**](https://elizabethgeorge.com/products/one-word-themes)The women departed quickly to carry out the angel’s instructions. Though they were “afraid,” they “told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest” ([Luke 24:5, 9](https://elizabethgeorge.com/products/one-word-themes)).

**Luke 24:9-10**   
**When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles.**

The disciples were skeptical at first, but ran to the tomb and saw proof of the women’s statement. The disciples left, but Mary Magdalene returned and was weeping by the tomb when Jesus appeared to her ([John 20:11-18](https://elizabethgeorge.com/products/one-word-themes)). This was His first appearance to anyone after His death and resurrection.

**John 20:11-18 11   
Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb 12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.  
13 They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”   
“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” 14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.   
15 He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”  
Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”  
16 Jesus said to her, “Mary.”  
She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).  
17 Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”  
18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.**

**The Women at the Tomb's reward—**[**Matthew 28:9-10**](https://elizabethgeorge.com/products/one-word-themes)Soon after Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene, He appeared to the other women on the road. They took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. Then He instructed them to have the disciples leave for Galilee where they would see Him.

**Matthew 28:8-10   
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.”**

**How to gain wisdom from this Biblical story**

Faithfulness is not optional. A group of women supported Jesus’ ministry for many months. They were faithful with their resources, steadfast at the cross, and prepared to fulfill their final act of service at the tomb. These women did not allow adversity to keep them from ministering to their Savior.

Actions always trump good intentions. The women didn’t simply say they were devoted to Christ. They stayed when others fled. They used their resources to minister to Christ, both before and after His death. Having good intentions is easy, but intentions don’t yield results. Actions yield results. Like the women at Jesus’ tomb, be a person of action and use your time and resources to minister to others.