

Women Of Destiny

April 4, 2026



The mother of Jesus preserved and protected God's word

"But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart." (Luke 2:19, 51)

Ponder: to preserve a thing (from perishing or being lost)

To keep within oneself, keep in mind (a thing, lest it be forgotten)

To think carefully about something, especially for a noticeable length of time

To consider something deeply and thoroughly, meditate

Implies protecting, keeping safe, and preserving memories or divine promises for future understanding.

Mary serves as a model of faith who trusts God, even when she doesn't fully understand the "whole picture" immediately. Her faith ran deep and strong, guarding and treasuring the secrets of God and awaiting their fulfillment.

The sister of Martha and Lazarus prioritized God's word

Prioritize: designate or treat (something) as more important than other things

Mary sits at Jesus' feet listening to his word while Martha is distracted by serving, leading to Jesus' affirmation that *"Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."* (Luke 10:38-42)

Upon Jesus' arrival after Lazarus' death, Mary falls at his feet in both grief and faith.

"When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.'" (John 11:32)

Mary anoints Jesus' feet with expensive perfume and wipes them with her hair, a sign of extreme devotion just before the final period of his life.

“Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.” (John 12:3)

At that time, “sitting at a rabbi’s feet” signified formal discipleship. By welcoming Mary into that role, Jesus publicly affirmed her as a disciple, making a culturally radical statement. Mary prioritized the person of Jesus and his words over being consumed by worldly affairs and anxieties or even well-intentioned busyness.

The first to proclaim the Living Word

Proclaim: announce officially or publicly

Mary Magdalene is mentioned in all four of the New Testament gospels, thus making her story quite extraordinary.

“After this, 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) from whom seven demons had come out; 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.” (Luke 8:1-3)

“And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died,^[a] he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!” Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene...” (Mark 15:39-40)

“Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. Among them were Mary Magdalene...” (Matt. 27:55-56)

“Standing near the cross were Jesus’ mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary (the wife of Clopas), and Mary Magdalene.” (John 19:24)

“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

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.” At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. 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.” Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”). 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.’” 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.” (John 20:1, 11-18)

In a culture that often silenced women, Mary Magdalene was honored as the first witness to the resurrection—the very heart of the gospel. When others scattered, she stayed. And to her, Jesus gave the powerful proclamation: “Go and tell.

Mary, the mother of Jesus; Mary of Bethany, the sister of Martha and Lazarus; and Mary Magdalene each experienced total life transformation through Jesus—because they protected His word, prioritized their lives around it, and boldly proclaimed it. Beloved, that same invitation is extended to us today!