

# Luke's Love for and Support of Women

By Curtis May

**More than any of the other gospels, Luke focuses on women as playing important roles among Jesus' followers, women such as Mary Magdalene, Martha, and Mary of Bethany. The Gospel of Luke is the only Gospel which contains the Annunciation of the Birth of Jesus to Mary his mother (1:26-38) Compared to the other canonical gospels, Luke devotes **significantly more** attention to women.**

*Prominent discussion is given to the life of **Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist by Luke.***

**The Gospel of Luke is the third and longest of the four canonical Gospels.** This synoptic gospel is an account of the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. It details his story from the events of his Birth to his Ascension and **includes many details of his interactions with women.**  
**WHY WAS THAT?**

*Women were marginalized in 1<sup>st</sup> C. Judaism (also before and after, even today).*

**Jewish men thanked God that they were not born a woman or a Gentile.**

**They said it was better to burn the Torah than teach it to a woman Rabbi's would often refuse to speak even to their wives in public.**

*Christian counselors, including **Psychologist Dr. Archibald Hart** and former Fuller Seminary Chaplain of student wives **Kathleen Hart** say the following is true of ministers' wives today:*

**--Ministers' wives (and other female leaders) are among the most offended people on earth: provoked, insulted, criticized, and often expected to be and look perfect, while being super-woman! The fruits are often: resentment, bitterness, depression, rage and unforgiveness.**

**--And husbands cannot be their wives' counselors.**

*Jesus' compassion extends to **all** who are needy, **women are important among his followers, the despised Samaritans are commended, and Gentiles** are promised the opportunity to accept the gospel and **Luke is keen to report it.***

A woman could be divorced for just about any reason. That's why Jesus emphasized that a man should not put away his wife. He was **protecting women** (Luke 16:18).

After her <sup>rd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> divorce, a woman was considered a slut. **A man was typically not marginalized** for divorcing His wife in that culture.

A man therefore, could be divorced as many times as he **"needed to."**

## Annunciation

Luke 1:26-37 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name <sup>28</sup> was Mary. The angel went to her and said, **"Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."**

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, **"Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus."**

<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. **So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.**

(Story of **Sojourner Truth** at a women's suffrage meeting- a man's comment about Jesus being a man and not a woman—and women being less intelligent. She said **God sent Jesus through a woman**). She was a <sup>th</sup> minister, author and abolitionist in the 19<sup>th</sup> C.

## Widow's Son Raised ?

Luke 7:11-17- <sup>11</sup> Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his <sup>12</sup> disciples and a large crowd went along with him. **As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow.** And a large crowd from the town was with

her. **When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry." (I conducted a funeral service of a widow's son @a week ago—It's tough!)**

### **Jesus Anointed by a Sinful Woman**

Luke 7:36-50 -When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. **37 A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. 38 As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.**

*The man of the house complained! Jesus rebuked him!*

### **The Widow's Mite**

Luke 21:1-4- As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. *He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins.* "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. **All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."**

### **The Crucifixion of Jesus**

Luke 23:26-27- As the soldiers led him away, they seized **Simon from Cyrene**, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. **A large number of people**

**followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him ■**

### **The Resurrection**

Luke 24:1-10 - **On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.** They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them.

**\*\*\*Where were the men-the disciples? In lock-down and gripped with fear!**

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When they came back from the tomb, *they told all these things to the*  
<sup>10</sup>  
*Eleven and to all the others.* **It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary  
the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the  
apostles.**



