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Women in the Early Jesus Movement: Mark and Acts

Thesis

Outside of the Jesus movement, women are treated and regarded as second-class citizens. In his movement, Jesus works through women to prove their equality in the Lord's eyes and their worth in God. He works through several women, who help spread the word of God.

The Gospel of Mark

- Mark 5:25-34
 - “Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years”
 - What is so powerful about this chapter, is the faith the woman had in Jesus. She did not need him to prove anything to her, nor was she hesitant. She was so faithful in God's son, that all she did was touch his cloak to cure her hemorrhages.
 - Jesus responds, “Daughter your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease” (Mark 5:34)
- Mark 15
 - Mark 15:40, “There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, nad Mary the mother of James”
 - Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James were just two of the multiple women that followed Jesus.
 - “These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee”(Mark 15:41)
 - These women were not fearful of the priests, they always remained faithful to Jesus and the Lord without hesitation. They followed him during his movement until he was crucified, and were the first to know he had resurrected.
 - Mark 16:9 “Now after he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene”
- Mark 16

- Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James bring spices to the tomb to anoint Jesus and give him a proper burial. (Mark 16:1)
- Mark 16:2 “And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went on to the tomb.

Acts

- Acts 1
 - Acts 1:14, “All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus”
- Acts 5
 - the apostles continue to perform healings through the Lord, and are imprisoned by the high priest.
- Acts 9
 - A disciple named Tabitha shows the Lord’s work by doing acts of charity.
 - She dies and Peter brings her back to life, Acts 9:40 “Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said ‘Tabitha, get up.’”
 - Tabitha is a disciple of Jesus, and the news of her coming back to life spreads.
- Acts 12
 - The Lord sends an angel to free Peter from being imprisoned by Herod, and he goes to the home of Mary, mother of John Mark.
 - Mary housed one of the first church buildings.
 - Acts 12:12 “As soon as he realized this, he went to the house of Mary”
- Acts 16
 - Lydia in Acts 16:14, gives her home to Paul and his ministry so they can travel and spread the word and teachings of Jesus.

Outside of Marks and Acts

The Gospel of Luke

- TBII: : “Women were very much included, but were also second class citizens.”
- Luke 7: The sinful woman who kisses Jesus’ feet is forgiven of all of her sins.
- Luke 8: The female disciples gather.

- Luke 10: Mary and Martha, Luke 10:41, Martha fulfills the womanly duties, while Mary simply listens to Jesus' teachings, and Jesus deems her to have chosen the correct thing to do.

The Gospel of John

- John 8: The woman who is caught in adultery, "Let anyone among you who is said without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." (John 8:7)