

Jesus and Mary at the Empty Tomb

- Jesus intentionally _____ to her first before all the other disciples.
- Jesus meets her to _____ her in her grief.
- Jesus strategically _____ her as His first resurrection witness.

TAKING ACTION

If someone were to say to you that Jesus' attitude toward and treatment of women was repressive and degrading, how would you now respond? In the spirit of "always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you" (1 Peter 3:15), practice answering by writing down your answer.

NEXT WEEK: *Jesus and the Disciple Jesus Loved | John 21:20-25*

JOHN

LIFE IN JESUS

Jesus and Women in John's Gospel

Various Texts
Sunday, May 12, 2024
Tim Theule

Many today view Jesus' and the biblical writers' attitude toward and treatment of women as repressive and degrading. Nothing could be further from the truth! In fact, Jesus' attitude toward and treatment of women was culturally revolutionary. On this Mother's Day Sunday, let's look again at three revolutionary conversations between Jesus and women in the Gospel of John.

Jesus and the Woman at the Well (John 4)

- Jesus breaks social taboos to caringly _____ her.
- Jesus lovingly _____ His Gospel and reveals His Messianic identity to invite her faith.
- Jesus enthusiastically _____ her bold, effective Gospel witness.

Jesus and Martha at the Death of Lazarus (John 11)

- Jesus compassionately _____ with her in her grief.
- Jesus eagerly _____ her the truth of His coming resurrection, revealing one of His seven I AM statements.
- Jesus warmly _____ her bold confession of faith.

Growth Groups are the glue that holds our church together, the way we find and follow Jesus together. If you are not involved in a Growth Group, now is the perfect time to jump in at gracecentralcoast.org/groups

CONNECT *(ask this question to check-in with your group)*

Share how you spent Mother's Day! How was the day for you? What was fun about the day? What, perhaps, was hard about the day?

DISCUSS *(use some of these questions to process God's Word together)*

1. How did you "come under" God's Word and the message this week? How did this text/message speak to you?
2. Take your pick of John 4, John 11, or John 20. Read the text and then share your observations about how Jesus interacts with the woman in that text. Make a list together of your observations.
3. At the time of Jesus, women, and especially Samaritan women, were considered unclean and, therefore, to be publicly avoided. How does Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well in John 4 challenge and revolutionize this cultural attitude toward women?

4. At the time of Jesus, women were considered stupid and therefore not to be taught or educated. How does Jesus' encounter with Martha at the tomb of Lazarus in John 11 challenge and revolutionize this cultural attitude toward women?

5. At the time of Jesus, women were considered unqualified and unworthy to serve as witnesses in court cases. How does Jesus' resurrection encounter with Mary at the empty tomb challenge and revolutionize this cultural attitude toward women?

6. Here at Grace Central Coast, while we believe that the Bible teaches the complementarity of men and women in the home and church, our leadership is actively trying to elevate the voices and roles of women in our church. Do you see that? Where do you see that? How can we continue to do this?

7. Question for the women of Grace: How can men better honor, value, and elevate the voices and contributions of women in our lives, our homes, our church, and our community?

PRAY *(use these prompts to pray in response to God's Word)*

- This week, let the women of your group share prayer requests and let the men of your group then pray for those requests, taking our cues from all that we learned about Jesus' attitude toward and care for women.