Faithful at the Cross: Lessons from Women Followers



Explore the courage and faith of the women who stayed with Jesus at the cross, inspiring deep trust and devotion in trials.





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Introduction

The Gospels richly portray the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, highlighting not only His teachings but also those who followed Him faithfully. Among these devoted followers were women who displayed incredible courage and faith during the darkest moments of Jesus' journey—especially at the cross. While many disciples fled in fear, these women stood near, offering unwavering support and witnessing the crucifixion firsthand.

John 19:25—27 reveals a touching scene where Mary, the mother of Jesus, along with other women, stayed close despite the danger and despair surrounding them. Their presence demonstrates a powerful example of loyal discipleship and profound trust in God's plan even amid suffering. These women were more than bystanders; they were active participants in the story of redemption, showing us lessons about courage, faith, and love that resonate deeply today.

Throughout this 7-day study, we will journey through key Gospel passages, reflecting on the roles and faith of these women. We will examine what it means to follow Jesus faithfully when it is costly, and how their stories inspire us to cultivate resilience, hope, and devotion. As you read and meditate, consider your own journey of faith: How might you stand firm when the storms of life come? What does faithful following look like in your daily walk?

Let us open our hearts to the powerful testimony of the women at the cross, learning from their unwavering faith and devotion that can transform our







discipleship and deepen our relationship with Christ.















Your Verse

John 19:25 – "Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene."

Supporting Scriptures

- Luke 23:49 "But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things."
- Mark 15:40 "Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome."







Devotional: Faithful Presence Amidst Pain

Standing Near Despite Sorrow: The women at the cross reveal a profound truth — true faith does not shy away from pain or suffering. Where many fled, these faithful followers remained close, willing to endure heartache and danger to support Jesus. Their presence is a powerful testament of unwavering loyalty and courage.

Often, in our lives, we face moments of hardship where remaining faithful feels difficult or lonely. These women show us that it is in these moments our faith is refined and strengthened. They did not have all the answers or understand the full plan yet chose to stand firm.

Their presence reflects trust not only in Jesus but in God's sovereignty amid uncertainty. How can you cultivate such steadfastness when trials come? Today, consider where you might need to stand firm and trust God even when circumstances seem bleak.







Reflect and Apply

| 1. | What fears might cause me to withdraw when faith calls for courage? |
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| 2. | How does standing with Jesus in hardship shape my relationship with Him? |
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| 3. | In what ways can I offer faithful presence to others facing trials? |
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Journaling Prompts

| | Recall a time you stayed faithful during a difficult situation. How did it impact your faith? |
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| 2. | Write about areas in your life where you need more courage to stand firm. |
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| | Identify one practical step you can take to support someone experiencing hardship. |
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Prayer for Today

Father, thank You for the example of the women who stood beside Jesus in His suffering. Help me be courageous and faithful when trials arise. Teach me to trust Your plan even when I do not understand. Strengthen my heart to remain close to You and to others in need. May I embody unwavering love and loyalty. In Jesus' name, *Amen.* 😂 🙏 💪

















Your Verse

John 19:26 – "When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, 'Woman, here is your son,'"

Supporting Scriptures

- Luke 2:35 "...and a sword will pierce your own soul too."
- Isaiah 53:4 "Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering..."







Devotional: Christ's Compassion Inspires Our Care

Compassion amidst agony: Even in His final moments, Jesus cared deeply for His mother and those He loved. His tender words demonstrate how love perseveres through suffering. The women at the cross witnessed this profound compassion firsthand, inspiring us to live lives marked by love and care for others, especially in hardship.

Often, pain can close our hearts, but Jesus teaches us to open them wider. The women's presence symbolizes the power of compassionate support, reminding us to be sensitive to those suffering around us. Their faith was expressed not only by standing but by loving despite sorrow.

Let compassion define your response to pain, reflecting Christ's love to a hurting world.







Reflect and Apply

| 1. | How can I show compassion to those suffering around me? |
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| 2. | In what ways has Christ's love sustained me through pain? |
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| 3. | What barriers hold me back from loving others fully during hardship? |
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Journaling Prompts

| 1. | Describe a time you experienced Christ's compassion in difficulty. |
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| 2. | List ways you can practice compassionate presence in your community. |
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| 3. | Reflect on how showing love during trials changes your perspective. |
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Prayer for Today

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your unfailing compassion even on the cross. Teach me to love others deeply, especially when life is hard. Give me a heart that sees pain and responds with kindness and care. Help me reflect Your gentle love wherever I go. In Your precious name, *Amen.* \heartsuit \bigwedge

















Your Verse

Mark 15:40 - "Some women were watching from a distance...and Salome."

Supporting Scriptures

- Acts 1:14 "All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women..."
- Joshua 1:9 "Be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."







Devotional: Choosing Courage in Fearful Moments

Standing firm in fear's shadow: The risk these women took to remain near Jesus was enormous. In a society where women had little status and following a condemned man could bring persecution, their courage shines brightly. This bravery challenges us to lean on God's strength when fear threatens to overwhelm.

Like these women, we live in uncertain times. Courage is not the absence of fear but choosing faith over fear. The early church's example reminds us prayer fuels courage, uniting believers in strength and hope. When you feel afraid, remember that God's presence empowers you to stand confidently.

Today, embrace courage as an act of faith, trusting God to guide and protect you.







Reflect and Apply

| 1. | What fears challenge my faith today? |
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| 2. | How does prayer help me face my fears? |
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| 3. | In what ways can I remain courageous like the women at the cross? |
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Journaling Prompts

| 1. | Write about a fear you overcame through faith. |
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| 2. | List scriptures that encourage you to be courageous. |
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| 3. | Plan a step you can take to grow your courage in daily life. |
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Prayer for Today

God of Strength, help me to be brave like the women who stood with Jesus. When fear threatens, remind me of Your presence and power. Fill my heart with courage and faith, so I may face challenges boldly. Unite me with others in prayer and trust. Through Christ, *Amen.* 💪 🙏 🖰

















Your Verse

Matthew 27:55–56 – "Many women were there, watching from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs."

Supporting Scriptures

- Hebrews 11:1 "Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."
- James 1:12 "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life."







Devotional: Persevering Faith Through Challenges

Steadfast faith amid trials: These women followed Jesus closely throughout His ministry, caring for Him and trusting His message. Their journey was marked by perseverance despite uncertainty. Faith is often tested in difficult seasons, but enduring faith shines brightest under pressure.

Our world demands quick answers and instant results, yet true faith waits patiently and trusts deeply. The women's example calls us to steady devotion, reminding us that faith is not just belief but persevering loyalty in action.

Let today be a commitment to nurture endurance in your faith journey, trusting God's promises even when His plan is unclear.







Reflect and Apply

| 1. | How has my faith been tested recently? |
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| 2. | What helps me stay faithful during uncertainty? |
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| 3. | In what ways can I strengthen my trust in God's promises? |
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Journaling Prompts

| 1. | Reflect on a time your faith endured a difficult test. |
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| 2. | Write about the promises of God that encourage you. |
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| 3. | List practical habits that build perseverance in faith. |
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Prayer for Today

Father in Heaven, thank You for the gift of enduring faith. Help me to remain committed to following Jesus through every trial. Strengthen my resolve and deepen my trust in Your promises. Teach me patience and hope as I walk this journey. In Jesus' name, *Amen.* \bigwedge \bigcirc \bigcirc















Your Verse

John 20:11-18 - "Mary Magdalene stood outside the tomb crying...Jesus said to her, 'Mary.'"

Supporting Scriptures

- Luke 24:10 "It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles."
- Acts 1:14 "All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women..."







Devotional: From Mourning to Joyful Witness

From sorrow to hope: The women's faithfulness extended beyond the cross to the empty tomb. Mary Magdalene's encounter with the risen Christ is one of the most profound moments in the Gospels. Their witness transforms mourning into joy and fear into bold proclamation.

We too are called to be witnesses of the resurrection power in our lives. This hope fuels our mission and shapes how we live each day. The women's testimony shows that God uses faithful followers to reveal His victory over death and despair.

Reflect on your role as a witness to God's resurrection power. How can your life testify to His grace and hope?







Reflect and Apply

| 1. | What does the resurrection mean in my daily life? |
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| 2. | How can I share the hope of Christ with others? |
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| 3. | In what ways do I experience the risen Christ today? |
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Journaling Prompts

| 1. | Write about a time God brought hope from a difficult circumstance. |
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| 2. | Describe how you can be a witness of God's power in your community. |
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| 3. | Reflect on how the resurrection influences your faith journey. |
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Prayer for Today

Risen Lord, thank You for victory over death and despair. Help me to live as a bold witness of Your resurrection power. Fill me with hope, joy, and courage to share Your grace with others. May my life reflect the new life You give. In Jesus' name, *Amen.* *

















Your Verse

John 19:27 – "Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home."

Supporting Scriptures

- Romans 12:10 "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."
- Philippians 1:27 "Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ."







Devotional: Living Out Faithfulness in Community

Loyalty in action: Jesus entrusts His mother to John, demonstrating the importance of caring for one another like family. The women's faithfulness extended into community and responsibility, offering a model of mutual love and support.

True discipleship embraces both faith and action — standing firm and caring deeply. The women's example challenges us to live out our faith through loving relationships that transcend fear. Their service and loyalty remind us that faithfulness is practical and relational.

Consider how you can embody faithfulness in your relationships and community today.







Reflect and Apply

| How do I show faithfulness to those God has placed in my life? |
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| What relationships challenge me to grow in love and loyalty? |
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| How can I better reflect Christ's care through my actions? |
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Journaling Prompts

| 1. | Identify someone you can support faithfully this week. |
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| 2. | Write about how love strengthens your faith journey. |
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| 3. | Reflect on ways to serve others even when it's difficult. |
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Prayer for Today

















Your Verse

Romans 15:13 – "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him..."

Supporting Scriptures

- 2 Corinthians 4:17–18 "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory..."
- Psalm 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."







Devotional: Anchored Hope That Transforms Life

Hope rooted in God's faithfulness: The story of the women at the cross invites us to embrace hope that endures beyond pain and loss. Their faithful presence amidst despair reminds us that God's promises remain true, inspiring joy and peace through trusting Him.

Trials may come, but our hope is anchored in the eternal glory God prepares. Like these faithful followers, we are called to live in the light of resurrection hope, transforming our perspective and empowering our daily walk.

Reflect today on the hope God offers you, and let it renew your spirit and fuel your faith.







Reflect and Apply

| 1. | Where do I find hope during difficult seasons? |
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| | |
| 2. | How does trusting God change my outlook on suffering? |
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| 3. | In what ways can I share hope with those who are discouraged? |
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Journaling Prompts

| 1. | Write about how God's hope sustained you in tough times. |
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| 2. | List scriptures that encourage you with hope. |
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| 3. | Plan how to encourage someone with the hope of Christ this week. |
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Prayer for Today

God of Hope, fill me with joy and peace as I trust in You. Help me hold fast to the promises of Your word, even when life is hard. Transform my heart with hope that shines through every dark valley. May I be a beacon of Your love and faithfulness. In Jesus' name, *Amen.* \$\mathcal{B}\$ \langle \tag{\lambda}\$







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