

**WALMSLEY BIBLE STUDY – WOMEN OF THE BIBLE**

Session 1 Monday 13 April 2026 @ 7.30pm

Session 2 Monday 11 May 2026 @ 7.30pm

Session 3 Monday 8 June 2026 @ 7.30pm

Session 4 Monday 13 July 2026 @ 7.30pm

**SESSION 3**PREFACE : TAMAR : *Gen. Ch 38*RAHAB : *Josh. 2:1-21*DEBORAH (& JAEL) : *Judges 4 & 5*

THE SIX MARYS

WOMEN CONVERTS OF NOTE

**SESSION 3: THE SIX MARYS**

In Roman Catholic traditions there were six **Marys** around **Jesus**; the obvious being (1)**Mary**, wife of **Joseph** and mother of **Jesus**, & (2)**Mary Magdalene**. There were others such as (3)**Mary**, the wife of **Clopas/Cleopas**, probably the brother of **Joseph** the adoptive father of **Jesus**, Sister-in-Law to **Mary**, Mother of **Jesus**; (4)**Mary**, mother of **James** (the Less?) & **Joses** and potentially the wife of **Alphaeus** (and possibly 'the other **Mary**'); (5)**Mary of Bethany** (sister to **Martha** & **Lazarus**); (6)**Mary Salome**, mother of **John Mark**. There is plenty of discussion over these, but what is clear is that Mary was a VERY common name! The Synoptic Gospels, Gospel of John and Acts of the Apostles variously mention these women. Some villages, particularly on the Iberian Peninsula, are named *Seis Marias* or *Sesmarias*, are named after them.

What is most clear is that it was just the Women, and in John, 'the disciple whom Jesus loved' – probably John the Priest NOT John bar-Zebedee – who dared to stay by the Cross as Jesus suffered and died. Some also who accompanied **Joseph of Arimathea** to decoup **Jesus** from the cross and entomb Him. So too, at the tomb 3 days later, just the Women who took ointments, Herbs and probably flowers, and even kingly robes, given by the Magi 33 years before, to dress the body properly, only to find His body gone. They were not believed by the menfolk.

**MARY**, Mother of **JESUS** Matt 1:18-24; Mk 6:3; Lk 1:26-55, Ch2, 8:19-21, John 2:1-5, 19:25-27; Acts 1:14

**Q.** We hear surprisingly little of Mary in the Gospels, and absolutely nothing after Acts 1. What do you make of her character and standing in the community of Jesus's followers and wider society? She seems to be 'better connected' than might commonly be thought.

**MARY** of MAGDALA Matt 27: 55 & 56, 28:1; Mk 15:40, 16:1, 9; Lk 8:2-3, 23:55-56 (inferred); Lk24 1:1-11; John 19:25, 20:1-18; Acts 1:14 inferred,

**Q.** Who was this woman? Was she REALLY a Prostitute as Catholic tradition maintains, or was she someone of greater standing and wealth, albeit troubled in body and spirit until she met Jesus.

**MARY** of CLOPAS Lk 23:55-56 (inferred) Lk24 1:1-11 (inferred); John 19:25, Acts 1:14 inferred

**Q.** Some doubt surrounds this woman's provenance in the minds of some, but John 19:25 seems to be in no doubt – 'sister' meaning sister-in-law, for there cannot be two Marys as sisters! If this Mary is also a helper, what does that say about the wealth of Clopas, also a follower. It is most probable that Clopas and Mary were the two on the Emmaus road, going back home after the terrible events of Friday, the Day of Preparation.

**MARY**, mother of James & Joses Matt 27: 55 & 56; Mk 15:40-41, 47, 16:1; Lk 23:55-56, 24 1:1-11 (inferred);

**Q.** James is commonly called 'James the Less', and Joses (Joseph); these are considered to be close relatives of Jesus. Again, what does that say about their ability to fund Jesus and his disciples?

**MARY** of Bethany Possibly Matt 26:6-11; (probably NOT Lk 7:36-50); Mk 14:3-7; John 11:1-48; 12:1-8;

**Q.** Mary, Martha and Lazarus were all siblings. In Matt. & Mk Simon the Leper (a Pharisee) of Bethany was entertaining Jesus when 'a woman' came in... John is EXPLICIT that this was Mary of Bethany, sister of Lazarus. It all happened towards the end of the trail for Jesus on his way to the 'End Game'. (the Lk story is remarkably similar, but much earlier, and the town is not revealed, and neither is the woman's kin – she was said to be 'sinful') What do you make of this family?

**MARY SALOME**, Mother of **John Mark** Mk 15:40-41, 47; Acts 1:14 inferred, 12:12

**Q.** It is somewhat traditionally held that Salome was also named Mary. Not to be confused with Salome, dau of Herodias. She is known as a 'Myrrh-bearer', being one of the women at the 'Decoupage'. The mother of John Mark is also seen in Acts, as an important householder. What does that tell you?