

Luke 23:55

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid.

Analysis

The women watch: 'And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid.' After Jesus' burial, 'the women... which came with him from Galilee' (αἱ γυναῖκες... συνακολουθήσασαι ἐκ τῆς Γαλιλαίας αὐτοῦ, *hai gynaiques... synakolouthēsasai ek tēs Galilaias autō*) 'followed after' (κατακολουθήσασαι, *katakolouthēsasai*). They 'beheld the sepulchre' (ἐθεάσαντο τὸ μνημεῖον, *etheasantō to mnēmeion*) 'and how his body was laid' (καὶ ὡς ἐτέθη τὸ σῶμα αὐτοῦ, *kai hōs etethē to sōma autou*). These faithful women who supported Jesus' ministry remained to the end, observing burial location and procedure so they could return to anoint His body after Sabbath. Their devotion contrasts with male disciples' abandonment. Their witness establishes burial location, preventing later claims Jesus never actually died or was buried elsewhere.

Historical Context

These women (identified in v. 49 and 24:10 as Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and others) demonstrated remarkable courage and devotion. While male disciples fled and hid, women remained at the cross (23:49), observed the burial (23:55), and would be first at the tomb (24:1). Their presence fulfills multiple purposes:

1. witnesses to Jesus' actual death and burial

2. preparation to anoint the body (24:1)
3. first witnesses to resurrection (24:2-8).

In a culture where women's testimony wasn't valued legally, God chose women as primary resurrection witnesses—a detail no inventor would include if fabricating the story. This honors women's faith and highlights God's counter-cultural kingdom values.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Why is it significant that women, not the male disciples, remained faithful through the crucifixion and burial?
2. How do these women's observations establish the reliability of burial and resurrection accounts?
3. What does God choosing women as first resurrection witnesses teach about kingdom values?

Interlinear Text

Κατακολουθήσασαι	δὲ	καὶ	γυναῖκες	αἵτινες	ἦσαν	
followed after	And	also	the women	which	came	
G2628	G1161	G2532	G1135	G3748	G2258	
συνεληλυθυῖαι	αὐτοῦ	ἐκ	τῆς	Γαλιλαίας	ἐθεάσαντο	τὸ
G4905	his	from	G3588	Galilee	and beheld	G3588
	G846	G1537		G1056	G2300	
μνημεῖον	καὶ	ὥς	ἐτέθη	τὸ	σῶμα	αὐτοῦ
the sepulchre	also	how	was laid	G3588	body	his
G3419	G2532	G5613	G5087		G4983	G846

Additional Cross-References

Luke 23:49 (Parallel theme): And all his acquaintance, and the women that followed him from Galilee, stood afar off, beholding these things.

Mark 15:47 (Parallel theme): And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid.

Matthew 27:61 (Parallel theme): And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre.

Luke 8:2 (Parallel theme): And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils,