

# 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 αὐτῷ, hai gynaikeis... synakolouthēsasai ek tēs Galilaias autō) 'followed after' (κατακολουθήσασαι, katakolouthēsasai). They 'beheld the sepulchre' (ἐθεάσαντο τὸ μνῆμεῖον, etheasanto 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

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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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

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Κατακολουθήσασαι δὲ καὶ γυναῖκες αἵτινες ἦσαν

**followed after**

G2628

**And**

G1161

**also**

G2532

**the women**

G1135

**which**

G3748

**came**

G2258

συνεληλυθυῖαι αὐτοῦ ἐκ τῆς Γαλιλαίας ἐθεάσαντο τὸ

G4905

**his**

G846

**from**

G3588

**Galilee**

G1056

**and beheld**

G3588

G2300

μνημεῖον καὶ ὡς ἐτέθη τὸ σῶμα αὐτοῦ

**the sepulchre**

G3419

G2532

**also** **how** **was laid**

G3588

**body**

G4983

**his**

G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**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,