

Mark 15:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

(Who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered unto him;) and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem.

Analysis

Who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered unto him—Mark emphasizes these women's longstanding discipleship. The Greek imperfect tense for followed indicates continuous action—they regularly, habitually followed Jesus throughout His Galilean ministry. Ministered means served, supported, provided for needs. These were disciples providing financial and logistical support enabling Jesus's itinerant ministry. Luke 8:1-3 identifies several women who provided for them out of their means. In first-century culture, honorable women did not typically travel with unrelated men, making these women's association countercultural and potentially scandalous. Yet Jesus welcomed and valued their discipleship. **And many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem—**Beyond the three named, many other women pilgrimaged to Jerusalem with Jesus for Passover.

Historical Context

First-century Jewish culture was patriarchal, with women's roles largely domestic. Rabbinic tradition taught that men should not speak with women in public (John 4:27 shows disciples' shock). Yet Jesus included women among His followers, taught them as disciples (Luke 10:39), and commissioned them as witnesses—all countercultural and revolutionary. These women's financial support was crucial—Jesus's disciples had left occupations to follow Him full-time; someone needed to

fund food, lodging, and travel. Wealthy women like Joanna provided resources. This partnership continued in the early church (Romans 16:1-2).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do these women's faithful service model practical discipleship—using resources, time, and presence to advance Christ's mission?
2. What does Jesus's inclusion and validation of women disciples teach about the gospel's transformation of social hierarchies?
3. How can contemporary Christians emulate these women's perseverance—remaining faithful through suffering and seeming defeat?

Interlinear Text

αἱ	καὶ,	ὅτε	ἦν	ἐν	αἱ	Γαλιλαία	ἠκολούθουν
(Who	also	when	he was	in	women which	Galilee	followed
G3739	G2532	G3753	G2258	G1722	G3588	G1056	G190
αὐτῷ	καὶ,	διηκόνουν	αὐτῷ	καὶ,	ἄλλαι	πολλαὶ	αἱ
him	also	ministered	him	also	other	many	women which
G846	G2532	G1247	G846	G2532	G243	G4183	G3588
συναναβᾶσαι	αὐτῷ	εἰς	Ἱεροσόλυμα				
came up	him	unto	Jerusalem				
G4872	G846	G1519	G2414				

