

# Mark 15:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid.

## Analysis

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**And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid**—The women served as witnesses, carefully observing the tomb's location. The Greek verb means to watch, observe attentively, look carefully—not casual glancing but intentional witnessing. They noted exactly where he was laid, enabling them to return Sunday morning and later report the empty tomb accurately. Their presence serves multiple purposes:

1. Witness—they could testify to Jesus's actual death and burial location, refuting later claims of mistaken tomb
2. Devotion—they remained faithful when male disciples fled
3. Preparation—knowing the location enabled their Sunday return
4. Providence—God positioned them to become first resurrection witnesses (Mark 16:6-7), commissioned to announce the gospel to the apostles.

## Historical Context

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In first-century Judaism, women's testimony was not legally recognized in courts—yet God chose women as Christianity's foundational witnesses. This countercultural choice demonstrates the gospel's radical nature. If early Christians invented the resurrection story, they would never have made women the primary witnesses—culturally, that undermined credibility. That all four Gospels name women as first witnesses, despite cultural liability, testifies to historical accuracy—the evangelists reported truth even when culturally inconvenient. Mary

Magdalene's prominence across all resurrection accounts establishes her centrality. Jesus appeared first to her (Mark 16:9, John 20:14-17), commissioning her to announce His resurrection—making her apostle to the apostles.

## Related Passages

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

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. What does God's choice of women as primary resurrection witnesses reveal about the gospel's validation of the marginalized?
2. How does the women's continuous presence establish unbroken testimony authenticating resurrection claims?
3. What does Mary Magdalene's commission to announce resurrection teach about Jesus elevating those the world dismisses?

## Interlinear Text

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ἡ	δὲ	Μαρία	ἡ	Μαγδαληνὴ	καὶ	Μαρία	ἡ	Ἰωσήτος
G3588			G3588				G3588	
	<b>and</b>	<b>Mary</b>		<b>Magdalene</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>Mary</b>		<b>of Josès</b>
	G1161	G3137		G3094	G2532	G3137		G2500

ἐθεώρουν	ποῦ	τέθειται
<b>were watching</b>	<b>where</b>	<b>He was laid</b>
G2334	G4225	G5087

## Additional Cross-References

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**Mark 15:40** (Parallel theme): There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Josès, and Salome;

**Mark 16:1** (Parallel theme): And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

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