

# Matthew 27:61

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre.

## Analysis

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**Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre** (καθήμεναι ἀπέναντι τοῦ τάφου)—the Greek *kathemenai* indicates extended sitting, not brief observation. These faithful women remained while others left, their grief expressed through presence. Their **sitting over against** suggests they faced the tomb directly, keeping vigil.

This detail serves legal testimony—they knew exactly where Jesus was buried, refuting later claims of wrong tomb or confused location. Their witness would be essential Sunday morning when they'd return with spices. While male disciples hid behind locked doors (John 20:19), these women kept watch, embodying the persistent faith Jesus praised (Luke 18:1-8). Love compelled them to remain near the body when fear drove others away.

## Historical Context

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Jewish mourning customs included sitting with the dead. The women couldn't enter the sealed tomb but remained as close as possible. Their vigil until sundown reflected both devotion and grief. Roman guards weren't yet posted (v. 62-66 occurred the next day), so the women could approach freely. Their presence also ensured proper respect for the deceased.

## Related Passages

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

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

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. What does the women's vigil teach about faithful presence in seasons of apparent defeat?
2. How did their grief-driven watching position them to become the first resurrection witnesses?

## Interlinear Text

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ἦν	δὲ	ἐκεῖ	Μαρία	ἡ	Μαγδαληνὴ	καὶ	ἡ	ἄλλη
was	And	there	Mary	G3588	Magdalene	and	G3588	the other
G2258	G1161	G1563	G3137		G3094	G2532		G243

Μαρία	καθήμεναι	ἀπέναντι	τοῦ	τάφου
Mary	sitting	over against	G3588	the sepulchre
G3137	G2521	G561		G5028

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 27:56** (Parallel theme): Among which was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's children.

**Matthew 28:1** (Parallel theme): In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

