

# Matthew 27:61

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

---

**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

---

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

---

**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

---

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

---

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

Μαρία καθήμεναι ἀπέναντι τοῦ τάφου  
**Mary** **sitting** **over against** <sup>G3588</sup> **the sepulchre**  
G3137 G2521 G561 G5028

## Additional Cross-References

---

**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.

