

Week 6: Women at the Cross and in the Early Church – Courage and Commitment

Key Passages

- Matthew 27:55–56
- Acts 1:12–14
- Acts 12:12

Themes

- Perseverance in difficult times
- Faithful support of Jesus and the apostles
- The importance of community

Passage Summary

These passages highlight the faithfulness of the women who remained devoted to Jesus and the early church. At the crucifixion, while many had fled, several women stayed near the cross, demonstrating courage and unwavering commitment. After Jesus' resurrection and ascension, they gathered with the disciples in prayer, waiting together for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Later, the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, became a place where believers met to pray and encourage one another.

Together, these passages remind us that faithfulness is often shown through perseverance, prayer, and supporting others, especially during difficult times.

What We Learn

- Faithfulness means remaining committed even when circumstances are difficult.
- Prayer and community strengthen believers.
- God uses ordinary people who are willing to serve faithfully.
- Supporting others is an important part of building the church.

Discussion Questions

1. What distinguished the women who remained near Jesus during His crucifixion?
2. How did women contribute to the growth of the early church?
3. What qualities of courage and commitment stand out?
4. Why was gathering together in prayer so important?
5. How can we support one another during difficult seasons?
6. What does faithful service look like today?
7. How can your home or resources be used to serve God?
8. How can you show courage in your faith this week?

Application

Develop a personal plan for serving faithfully in your church and community.

Ask yourself:

- How can I remain faithful during difficult times?
- In what ways can I support and encourage other believers?
- How can I be more committed to prayer and serving others?

Key Takeaway: The women at the cross and in the early church demonstrate that courage, prayer, and faithful service have a lasting impact. Their example encourages us to remain committed to Christ, support one another, and serve faithfully wherever God has placed us.