

## For Such a Time As This – Bosswomen of the Bible –

Isaiah 62:11; Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:1-17

For the last 5 weeks we have been in the theme – For Such a Time As This – Bosswomen of the Bible, we focused in the Hebrew Bible looking at Esther, Hannah, Miriam, Deborah & Jael. Last week we looked at the donkey mama who carried Jesus into the city on Palm Sunday. Today we see what it was all leading up to. The Resurrection of Jesus.

### Exegesis –

- A recap of what led up to this moment
  - Jesus is welcomed into the city as a hero; that upsets the religious establishment
  - On Thursday he gathers with his disciples for the traditional Passover feast
  - Just before dinner, Judas sells him out to the religious establishment
  - He goes to pray in garden. He asks disciples to stay up w/ him → they fall asleep
  - The authorities come to get him, Peter cuts the ear of a soldier and Jesus heals it
  - He goes to the most unjust hearing where they find him guilty and some of the same folks who were cheering on Sunday give him the death penalty
  - He is put to death in the most inhumane way
  - Disciples scatter - his ride or die, Peter, sells him out; Judas commits suicide
  - One of his wealthier followers donates his funeral plot to Jesus
- After all that drama, the women show up to attend to his body (in this book Mary Magdalene and the other Mary)

### Why Did the Women Come First? –

1. They showed up to meet his needs not the other way around

For most folks it was about what Jesus could do for them so once he was dead they were on to the next. The male disciples were often jockeying with each other rather than thinking about Jesus' needs. They women were looking out for Jesus

2. They believed in his power so they were the right witnesses –

The brothers who were with him all the time missed it so many times, but these women were clear about his

3. They were ready to act – to bear witness and to mobilize folks for the movement.

They spread the good news and got everyone to the meeting point. The book of Luke tells us they were not believed by everyone, but they clearly got the job done!

This is not about women being inherently better than men. This is about folks who have been overlooked and seemingly relegated to the “lesser roles” having a different orientation to faith than those who feel like they can get most of what they need through their own power. My grandmother’s generation used to say - “You don’t know Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have.” The most privilege you have, the more self-centered you tend to be. These women knew what it was not to have folks show up for you. Some of them were mothers who had no doubt cooked all day to have their families eat all the food leaving barely anything behind for them. They knew what it was for their words and their work to be discounted and even mocked.

### **Reflections Questions**

1. What is your relationship like with God? Do you spend most time asking God to show up for you or offering yourself as a part of God's plan? How can you find the right balance in asking for support and offering your service?
2. Do you believe God can and will do transformational things? What would it take to deepen your faith? What would it look like if you moved through the world like God is powerful and transformational?
3. When God speaks to you, what stands in the way of you acting? What are the distractions or doubts that make you hesitant to move with boldness for God's plan for righteousness and justice?