

Mary

Women Named

Mary in the New Testament

Status of Women in the 1st Century

Hellenistic women had more freedoms than Jewish women - and were typically educated.

Jewish women were betrothed by ages 10 to 12 and were married by ages 13-17 in mostly arranged marriages. Authority was passed from father to husband.

Some women were encouraged to stay at home and were to cover their heads when going into public. They were not supposed to speak to men.

Women who had more freedom: a) Gentiles, b) older unmarried women, c) widows, d) wealthy women.

Mary is a popular name: Hebrew: **Miriam**, Greek: **Mariam**, Short: **Maria**, English: **Mary**

Popular names for births in 1923-2022

Rank	Males		Females	
	Name	Number	Name	Number
1	James	4,625,363	Mary	3,054,624
2	Robert	4,357,620	Patricia	1,551,159
3	John	4,354,502	Jennifer	1,469,664
4	Michael	4,345,849	Linda	1,448,284
5	David	3,564,272	Elizabeth	1,403,790
6	William	3,484,904	Barbara	1,385,994
7	Richard	2,423,956	Susan	1,102,248
8	Joseph	2,300,049	Jessica	1,047,635
9	Thomas	2,134,536	Sarah	987,732
10	Christopher	2,049,683	Karen	986,072
11	Charles	2,037,956	Lisa	965,306

Rank	Forename	Incidence
1	Maria	61,134,526
2	Nushi	55,898,624
3	Mohammed	45,652,154
4	Jose	29,946,427
5	Muhammad	26,397,029
6	Mohamed	24,517,684
7	Wei	17,145,807
8	Mohammad	16,782,433
9	Ahmed	14,916,476
10	Yan	14,793,356
11	Ali	14,763,733
12	John	14,323,797
13	David	13,429,576

Mary, Mother of Jesus

- Described as faithful and humble.
- Obedient to God.
- Nurturing to Jesus, but also the Apostles.
- Courageous to face social stigma by supporting her son.
- Thoughtful:
 - After angels visit in **Luke 2:19** “But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.”
 - After Jesus says, “I must be about my father’s business” in **Luke 2:51** “But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.”

Mary, Mother of Jesus

What she was not:

- Divine
- Sinless

Biblical example is to pray to:

God, the father or Jesus
(Stephen in Acts 7)

Hail Mary prayer is blasphemous:

“Hail, Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou amongst
women

and blessed is the fruit of thy
womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our
death.

Amen.”

Mary Magdalene

Luke 8:1 Soon afterwards, He began going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God. The twelve were with Him, 2 and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses:

Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, 3 and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means.

Mary Magdalene or Mary of Magdala

- *Magdala*, meaning “Tower”
- Also, *Migdal* and *Magdala Nunaya* – meaning “Tower of Fish”.
- Near the Sea of Galilee, north of Tiberias.
- Fish-salting village

Mary was not a Prostitute

Pope Gregory I (591 AD) was very confused about who Mary Magdalene was. He confused **Mary Magdalene** with **Mary of Bethany** (sister to Martha and Lazarus), and confused Mary of Bethany with the **unnamed “sinful woman”** in Luke 8, since they both washed Jesus’ feet.

Unnamed “sinful woman” anoints Jesus

Luke 7:36 He entered the Pharisee’s house and reclined *at the table*. ³⁷ And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining *at the table* in the Pharisee’s house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume, ³⁸ and standing behind *Him* at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner.”

Mary of Bethany anoints Jesus

John 12:1 Jesus, therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 So they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving; but Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him. 3 Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said, 5 “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor people?” 6 Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it. 7 Therefore Jesus said, “Let her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of My burial. 8 For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have Me.”

Mary of Bethany

- Mary Magdalene lived near the Sea of Galilee.
- Mary of Bethany lived near Jerusalem.

Mary of Bethany, sister to Martha and Lazurus

Luke 10:38 Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. 39 She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word. 40 But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." 41 But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; 42 but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

Mary of Bethany

John 11:1 Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 It was the Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. 3 So the sisters sent word to Him, saying, “Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.” 4 But when Jesus heard this, He said, “This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.” 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days longer in the place where He was. 7 Then after this He said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.”

Mary of Bethany

17 So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days...20 Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed at the house. 21 Martha then said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.” 23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” 24 Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”

Mary of Bethany

25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?” 27 She said to Him, “Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world.” 28 When she had said this, she went away and called Mary her sister, saying secretly, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” 29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and was coming to Him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha met Him.

Mary of Bethany

31 Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and consoling her, when they saw that Mary got up quickly and went out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32 Therefore, when Mary came where Jesus was, she saw Him, and fell at His feet, saying to Him, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.” 33 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled,

Mary of Bethany

34 and said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to Him, “Lord, come and see.” 35 Jesus wept. 36 So the Jews were saying, “See how He loved him!” 37 But some of them said, “Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind man, have kept this man also from dying?” 38 So Jesus, again being deeply moved within, came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 Jesus said, “Remove the stone.” Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, “Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days.”

Mary of Bethany

40 Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” 41 So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. 42 I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me.” 43 When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth.”

Mary of Bethany


44 The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” 45 Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him. 46 But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done.

Mary of Bethany

- Mary Magdalene lived near the Sea of Galilee.
- Mary of Bethany lived near Jerusalem.

Confused Catholic-based Art of Mary Magdalene

- Portrayed as a regretful prostitute.
- Catholic saint of penitence.
- This is not at all who the Bible describes as Mary Magdalene.



So...

Who was Mary Magdalene?

- Woman of means – supported Jesus and the Apostles financially.
- Unmarried woman with independence and autonomy.
- Leader of the women who followed Jesus; always named first.
- Woman who remained with Jesus through the crucifixion and afterwards.

Mary Magdalene After the Resurrection

Matt 27:55 Many women were there looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee while ministering to Him. 56 Among them was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph [Mary, the wife of Clopas], and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

NOTE: Three people named James: 1) James, the older brother of John (fishermen). 2) James the Less (meaning younger), son of Mary of Clopas. 3) James, the younger brother of Jesus.

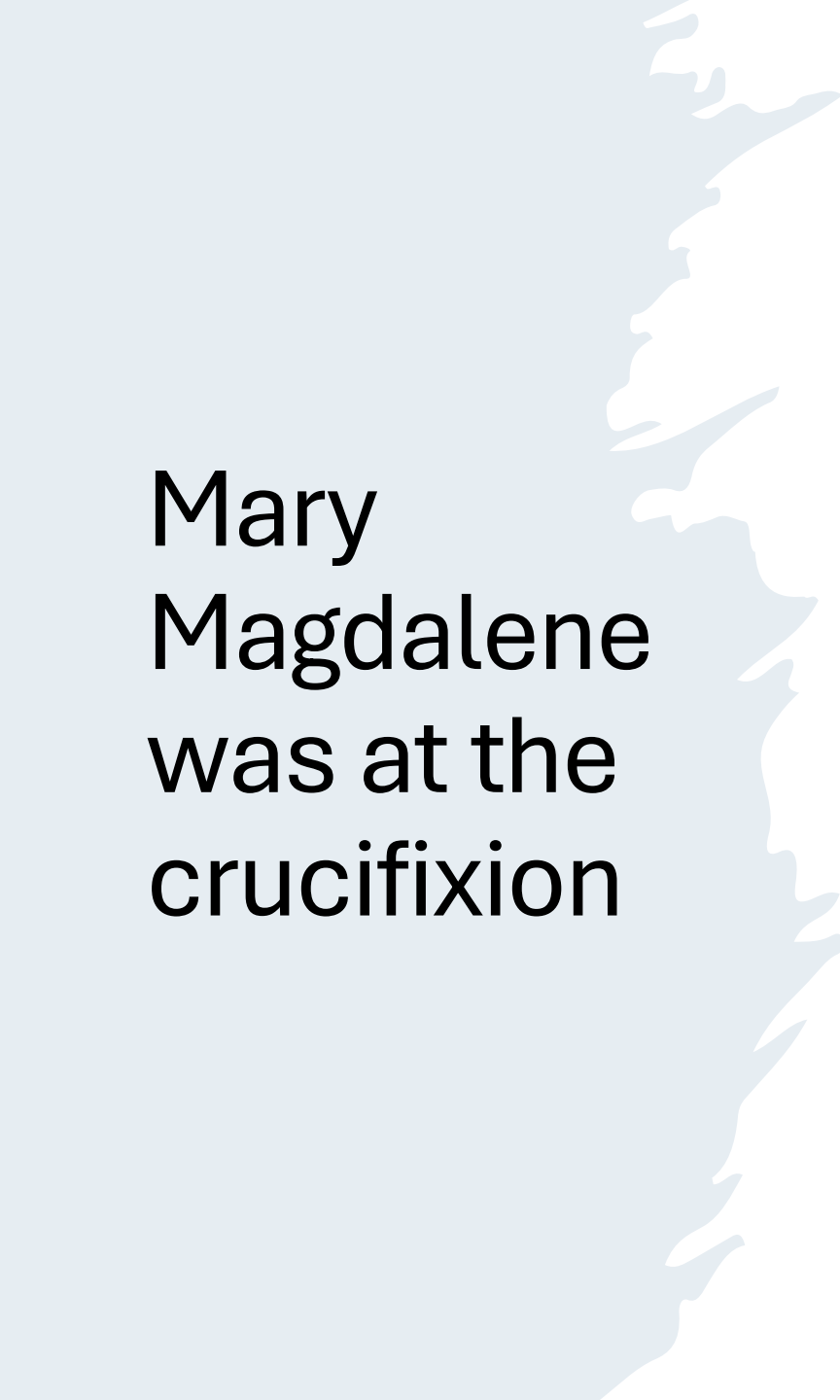
Mary Magdalene After the Resurrection

Mark 16:1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him. 2 Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. 3 They were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” 4 Looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large. 5 Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed.

Mary Magdalene After the Resurrection

6 And he said to them, “Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him. 7 But go, tell His disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you.’” 8 They went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

9 [Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons. 10 She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping. 11 When they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.



Mary
Magdalene
was at the
crucifixion

John 19:24 But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Clopas [Cleopas], and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved [John] standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!"

Mary, mother of Jesus	From Nazareth. Raised Jesus. Now a <u>widow</u> . Was 48-50 years old when Jesus was crucified.
Mary Magdalene	From Magdala. Jesus healed her. <u>Wealthy</u> and <u>unmarried</u> . Leader of the women who followed Jesus. Faithful disciple. At the foot of the cross and saw Jesus after His resurrection.
Mary of Bethany	From Bethany. Sister of Martha and Lazurus. <u>Wealthy</u> . Anointed Jesus. Listened at the feet of Jesus as a disciple rather than fulfilling traditional role of preparing the meal.
Mary, wife of Cleophas	Mother of James (could be James the Less) and Joseph. At the foot of the cross. Saw the angel at the empty tomb. Sometimes called “the other Mary.” Husband was a servant to Herod – <u>wealthy</u> .

Mary, mother of John Mark	In the “great company” of women who lamented as Jesus was led to Golgotha. Lived in Jerusalem. Owned her own home as a <u>widow</u> . The church met in her home.
Mary of Rome	Mary is commended by Paul because she “bestowed much labor on us” (Romans 16:6)