



Nameless Women of the Bible

By Susan Maluschka

Names are as important as they are versatile. They can be used not only as identifiers, but can also reveal much about us — everything from our ancestry to our family status. We are given names at birth but often change them or prefer a nickname to better suit our personality.

On the other hand, some people in the world want to “make a name” for themselves. They want the world to know who they are and remember them forever.

Far more important than our own name is the fact that God has put His name upon us in Holy Baptism. We remember what God says through His prophet Isaiah: *Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine* (Isaiah 43:1), and we also hear words of assurance in Luke 10:20: *rejoice that your names are written in heaven.*

What matters more than the name we choose to call ourselves is the impact we make on others, living lives that show God’s love and sacrifice for all mankind. Helping to bring someone to faith will be remembered long after our names are forgotten.

We’ve heard the Bible stories of Mary, Eve, Rachel, Ruth, Esther and others, but what about the women in the Bible who aren’t given names? Some are given chapters to share their accomplishments while others are judged on only a sentence or two. Regardless, they deserve to be considered and appreciated for their efforts and sacrifices. This study looks at just one of the women who made a significant impact but remains a mystery.

Susan is currently living with her husband of 34 years in Victoria, Texas. By day she is a church secretary and by night she writes Bible studies. Her book, *Watching Movies with Christian Eyes*, will be available soon.

Opening Prayer: Lord Jesus, in Your earthly ministry You were loved and served by devoted women, including Mary and Martha in whose home You enjoyed rest and refreshment. Give us grace to recognize and affirm the varied and singular gifts You bestow on women that Your Kingdom may be extended, Your Church enriched, and Your people lovingly served to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (LSB page 307)

Woman in the Crowd

Jesus had just cast out a demon from a mute man and was answering accusations that He used the power of the devil to do it. Immediately following this, a woman calls out to Him from the crowd gathered around. Luke is the only Gospel that records her one sentence; therefore, it deserves our first consideration.

Read **Luke 11:27–28**. What do you think caused this woman to randomly cry out?

Do you think this was the kind of thing that happened often? _____

Why would she bless Jesus’ mother? _____

Whom did Jesus consider to be His mother? **Matthew 12:49–50** _____

Did Jesus rebuke the woman for her outburst? _____ What did He do? _____

Why would Jesus not want someone to give a blessing to His mother? _____

What was He emphasizing by this comment? _____

What blessings do we receive from hearing the Word of God? _____

What do you think her reaction might have been to Jesus’ reply? What would yours be? _____

Do you think Jesus knew the woman’s name (see **Jeremiah 1:4–5**)? _____

Closing Prayer: Lord, help me not only to hear Your Word but, also to keep it in a pure heart and thereby produce a fruitful life of service. Guide my words that they may draw attention to You and not to myself. In Your Name. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Sing or say together one or more verses of “Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love” (LSB #900; LW #182; TLH #114).