



NAMELESS WOMEN OF THE BIBLE¹

LEADER GUIDE

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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.*² Amen.

Introduction

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 when we become older to better suit our individual personalities. 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. Many times, the method they choose to preserve their name in history results in tragic and horrific events.

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 these words of assurance in Luke 10:20: *rejoice that your names are written in heaven*.

Regardless of what name we choose to call ourselves, what matters more is the impact we make on others around us, living our lives to 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 that aren’t given names? Some are given chapters to share their accomplishments while others are judged on only a sentence or two. Regardless if they are mentioned or not, they deserve to be considered and appreciated for their efforts and sacrifices. This study looks at just one of the women that made a significant impact but remains a mystery.

Investigation

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.

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

²⁷ As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, “Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you.”

²⁸ He replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”

1. She may have been moved by the Holy Spirit, or she may have been caught up in the moment. We don't know for certain.

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

2. No. Women did not ordinarily begin conversations with men they did not know.

3. Why would she bless Jesus' mother?

3. She must have been a special woman to be chosen by God to give birth to such a man as this.

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

⁴⁹ Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

4. Whoever does the will of God.

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

5. No. He used it for another lesson for the people around.

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

6. He did not reject her praise, but redirected the attention of the crowd to focus on God instead.

7. What was He emphasizing by this comment?

7. The blessing of receiving the Gospel.

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

8. Faith through the work of the Holy Spirit.

9. What do you think her reaction might have been to Jesus' reply? What would yours be?

9. Answers will vary, but may include: silence; embarrassment; a nod or phrase to show understanding. ~~~~~

10: Do you think Jesus knew the woman's name? (See Jeremiah 1:4–5)

10. God knows us even before we are born! So He knew the woman and He knows us by name as well.

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).

¹ Reference to Collective Bible Studies

² Prayer “For women’s organizations,” *LSB*, page 307