

The Chosen S5, E4: “The Same Coin”

Biblical Highlights

- *Last Supper (and another Passover seder): The disciples (and other followers) say Dayenu. Jesus speaks to Judas; Judas leaves the seder.*¹ *Jesus gives the rest a new commandment.*²
- On the road to Bethany, Jesus curses a fig tree³, baffling his followers.

Other Highlights

- Jewish leaders: Mary Magdalene learns the Pharisees want to kill Jesus. Caiaphas plans to arrest Jesus quietly. Yussif defends Jesus at a meeting of the Sanhedrin.
- Disciples: Jesus reassures a tearful John. Peter tells Judas to have faith that Jesus knows what he is doing. Later, Judas strongly urges Jesus to establish his Kingdom on earth now. Jesus responds by telling Judas to choose who has his heart.
- At a meal in Bethany with his mother and female followers, Jesus asks them to keep their distance from him; they share a special Dayenu with him.



Jesus has told his followers repeatedly that he will die (and then rise). Consider how each of the following is responding: his mom, Mary Magdalene, Peter, John, James, Judas, Thomas, Z.

With which of these people do you identify most? Why?

¹ John 13:23-30

² John 13:33-34

³ Mark 11:12-14

Dayenu

This is a song traditionally sung during the telling of the story of Exodus at the Passover seder. The song's stanzas list a series of 15 kindnesses God performed for the Jewish people during and after the Exodus and concludes each with the word *dayenu*: "it would have been enough."

If He had . . .	and not . . .
taken us out of Egypt	made judgements on them
made judgments on them	made them on their gods
made them on their gods	killed their firstborn
killed their firstborn	given us their money
given us their money	split the Sea for us
split the Sea for us	taken us through it on dry land
taken us through it on dry land	pushed down our enemies in the Sea
pushed down our enemies in the Sea	supplied our needs in the wilderness for 40 years
supplied our needs in the wilderness . . .	fed us the manna
fed us the manna	given us the Shabbat
given us the Shabbat	brought us close to Mount Sinai
brought us close to Mount Sinai	given us the Torah
given us the Torah	brought us into the land of Israel
brought us into the land of Israel	built us the "Chosen House"

What stands out to you in the women's Dayenu?

Jesus and the Women of His Day

A woman was dependent on her husband for economic security and social standing:

- He owned and controlled all the assets
- He and their unmarried sons were the breadwinners; few jobs were available to women
- His social standing extended to every member of his household

If a woman's husband died or divorced her, she was in a precarious spot:

- Jewish laws to mitigate her vulnerability were imperfect
- The settlement she received would not sustain her indefinitely
- Other males in her extended family were obligated to assist her, but they had to look after their own immediate families, too

Divorcing your wife had never been easier. A new form of divorce, the "any cause" divorce, invented from a single word in Deuteronomy 24:1, had become all the rage.

Even if a woman was married to a man of good standing, she had few legal protections. She couldn't even testify in court, unless the matter pertained to a uniquely female issue such as ritual purity related to menstruation.

Jesus's treatment of women was unique among Jewish rabbis of his era.

Jewish women rarely, if ever, studied with rabbis the way that male disciples did. But when a woman named Mary wanted to hear his teaching, Jesus allowed her to sit at his feet (see Luke 10:39), which was a posture normally reserved for male disciples.

Some women supported Jesus and his entourage with their own money, food, and property. Jesus allowed these and other women to join his ranks and travel with him, just as his male disciples did (see Mark 15:40-41 and Luke 8:1-3). This was a shocking and scandalous move in the first century, for reasons that include:

- As a celibate rabbi, Jesus was not supposed to be in close quarters with women
- All but one of the disciples of Jesus was unmarried, and young unmarried men also were not to be in close quarters with women
- Some of the women who traveled with Jesus were unmarried and had no chaperones
- The other women, who were married, traveled without their husbands

When Jesus was arrested, tried, convicted, and crucified, his male disciples fled, and only one was present at the crucifixion. His female followers, however, remained steadfast. They watched the crucifixion. They watched his death on the cross. When two Pharisees – Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus – took Jesus's dead body, bound it in linen cloths with spices, and laid it in a tomb that Joseph owned, the women followed and watched.

The Gospels record that, on Sunday morning, the women who followed Jesus were the first to know that he had risen from the dead:

- They knew where the tomb was
- Four of them went to the tomb to anoint Jesus's body with spices
- When they arrived, they found that the stone blocking the tomb's entrance had been rolled away and that the tomb was empty
- Angels informed them that Jesus was alive
- A short time later, Jesus made his first appearance after rising from the dead to one of the women: Mary Magdalene

If you were to make up a story about the Resurrection in the first century, then you would not have women as the eyewitnesses. The most plausible explanation for the appearance of the story in all four Gospels is because it is an accurate rendition of what actually happened.