

The Mother of Jesus stands at the Cross

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Mary in Mark's Gospel

- Mary plays a visible role in Mark.
- She is mentioned by name in Jesus' rejection at Nazareth, when the locals ask, "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon...?" (Mark 6:3).

Mary in Matthew's Gospel

- Matthew expands Mary's role with his account of Jesus's nativity.
- Matthew has Mary fulfill Isaiah's prophecy that a virgin will conceive and bear a son called Emmanuel (Matt 1:23, Isa 7:14).

Mary in Luke's Gospel

- Mary takes center stage in Luke's nativity account.
- She is the one whom the angel Gabriel visits (Luke 1:26-28), and she is the one who wrestles with the announcement of the virginal conception (Luke 1:29-38).
- We learn more about Mary in Luke, including her hometown (Nazareth, Luke 1:26) and her family connections (her relative Elizabeth belongs to a priestly lineage, Luke 1:5, Luke 1:36).
- She travels to visit Elizabeth (Luke 1:39), stays with her for three months (Luke 1:56), and sings the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55).
- She is the dedicated mother, traveling to Bethlehem while pregnant, giving birth to Jesus, wrapping him in swaddling clothes, and placing him in a manger (Luke 2:5-7).
- Luke even reveals her state of mind, reiterating that she treasured in her heart the things that had happened (Luke 2:19, Luke 2:51).

Mary in John's Gospel

1. Never addressed by name (“mother of Jesus” “woman” “his mother”)
2. Cana (John 2:1-11) ~ Ideal believer...
3. Calvary ~ Enduring faithfulness. Unlike the first three Gospels, John 19:25 explicitly makes her a witness of the crucifixion.

Mary at the foot of the Cross

“Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.” (Jn 19:25-27)

A woman with long, wavy blonde hair and glasses is smiling warmly. She is wearing a dark-colored top. The background is a blurred outdoor setting, possibly a street or a public square, with buildings and what appears to be a fountain or monument in the distance.

SITTING

at the

foot of the cross

WITH MARY

Questions

1. What brings *me* to the foot of the Cross?
2. How does being at the foot of the Cross help me find meaning in what's happening in my life and in the world?