

## Lift Up Your Eyes To See Women At The Foot Of The Cross

John 19:25-27 (ESV)

...but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, 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 to his own home.

A celebration of mothers is a celebration of women.

The Bible highlights and honors the unique, God-designed qualities of women.

Why were the women at the foot of the cross when most of the men had fled?

Women handle the body better.

Handle with care.

4 care-filled ways women handle the body.

Women Propagate The Body

Genesis 3:20 (ESV)

The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

Psalms 22:8-10 (ESV)

"He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!" Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts. On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

Women have the exceptional and mysterious experience of having the soul of another inside of their body.

Women Protect The Body

Psalm 22:16-20 (ESV)

For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircle me; they have pierced my hands and feet – I can count all my bones – they stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. But you, O LORD, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid! Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog!

Luke 2:34-35 (ESV)

And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.

Matthew 23:37 (ESV)

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

A woman’s care for the body enables her to better understand, not only how to protect, but to protect and comfort simultaneously.

Women Purify The Body

Dirtiness is perceived by all, cleanliness is pursued by women.

Matthew 26:12 (ESV)

In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial.

Mark 16:1 (ESV)

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.

Ephesians 5:25-30 (ESV)

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the

same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.

#### Women Provide For The Body

##### Mark 15:40-41 (ESV)

There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

##### Proverbs 31:10-15 (ESV)

An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar. She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens.

##### Galatians 4:4-7 (ESV)

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.