

Women of faith 1

Miriam, the sister of Moses, and the Miriam from Magdala, Mary Magdalene

The Rhinebeck Reformed Church

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For millennia, since the time of the foundation of the first cities around 8,000 BCE, women have been relegated to a secondary position. Cities prioritized standing armies of men, male kings considered to be sons of gods, and an understanding of genealogical descent from fathers. Despite that clear bias, women from the biblical period until our time have emerged as the instruments of change, mandated not by society but from a power greater than society. This series will investigate examples of such women, from Miriam (the sister of Moses) to Eleanor Roosevelt.

Miriam, the sister of Moses

What was the exodus from Egypt and what did it mean?

Exodus 14:21: "Then Moses stretched his hand over the sea; and the LORD made the sea go by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided."

Exodus 15:19: "When the horse of Pharaoh went with his chariot and drivers into the sea, the LORD returned the waters of the sea upon them; but the sons of Israel walked on the dry ground in the midst of the sea."

Psalms 114:1-4: "When Israel came out from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a barbaric people, Judah became his sanctuary, Israel his dominion. The sea looked and fled, Jordan turned back. The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs."

Exodus 15:21: "And Miriam sang to them, 'Sing to the LORD, for he has arisen triumphantly: horse and driver he has thrown into the sea!'"

Mary Magdalene

What provoked Jesus' crucifixion?

Mark 8:31-32 "And he began to teach them, 'The son of man must suffer a lot and be condemned by the elders and the high priests and the scribes and be killed and after three days arise.' And he was speaking the word frankly; Peter took him aside, began to scold him."

Mark 15:1 "At once, early, the high priests with the elders and scribes and all the council made a decision, bound Jesus and bore him away him and delivered him over to Pilate."

Mark 14:6-9: "But Jesus said, 'Leave her: why are you making problems for her? She has done a fine deed with me. Because you always have the poor with yourselves, and whenever you want, you can always do them good, but me you do not always have. She acted with what she had; she undertook to anoint my body for burial. Amen I say to you, wherever the message is announced in the whole world, what she did will also be spoken of in memory of her.'"

Bruce Chilton

Bernard Iddings Bell Professor of Philosophy and Religion

Bard College, Annandale, New York