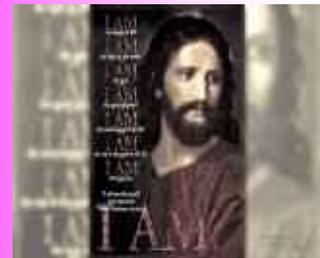


# Certain Women

*Have you ever wondered why some women dream...and leave no mark?  
Other women dream and change the world. It is because they are certain.*

In the Gospel of St. Matthew we read that “there were many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee and helped him. Among them were a certain group of women consisting of Mary Magdalene, Mary the Mother of James and Joseph, and the wife of Zebedee” (Matt. 27:55-56). These same women followed Him to the cross, and we read in the book of John “there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother’s sister, Mary of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene” (John 19:25). Even after the Lord was crucified, not wanting to be separated from Him and not willing for the time of parting to come yet, certain members of this group of faithful female followers sat by the tomb wherein He lay in death (Matt. 27:61)

The consistent support and following of women such as these was, and still is, priceless. The Lord Himself felt the value of their following, as He honored certain of these women by appearing first to them on the morning of His resurrection and entrusting them with the message He had for the brotherhood (Matt. 28:9-10).



The Lord calls certain women. They do all the good they can, in all the ways they can, in all the places they can, at all the times they can, to all the people they can, for as long as they possibly can--and, they certainly always can.

## To Be Certain

The American Heritage Dictionary describes some eight common meanings commonly assigned to the word “certain.” The central meaning of the word is that the thing or person it objectifies is “sure, definite and fixed.” The English language recognizes the word certain as an absolute term—and so it is in the Hebrew and Aramaic languages as well. Most importantly, it is known to be absolute in the language of the spirit.

Discernment is a certain knowing. To be certain is to reach an advanced level of personal religious integration. It is to reach an awareness of the Holy, to have a faith that transcends the here and now, and to possess the capacity to trust, to wait and to discern.

The certain women who followed Jesus lived lives of certainty. They lived in such a way as to give Jesus permission to be God. They understood their “creaturely role” and graciously accepted their place in the overall plan of God. While following the Lord, there must have been many times when where they were going (where their lives were going) seemed to be a mystery. But they did not fight or question the Lord’s plan. They waited and discerned their lives as it unfolded...waiting because of their trust in God.

## Certainty Brings Trust

It is possible to have confidence that all that is happening in and around us is in Divine order, and can, therefore, be trusted. This confident comes from being certain—it’s when you know that you know, when you are sure. Being certain eliminates the experience of frustration, being overwhelmed or discouraged.

Knowing is not the issue for **certain** women. For most the part, knowledge or the ability to obtain knowledge is born within us. It is intelligence that we must develop along the way. Unfortunately, it is intelligence that leads many of us to doubt what we know. The acquisition of knowledge, no matter what or how much, changes us in some way; which is why where we get the knowledge, and who provides us with the knowledge, determines the value the world places on the knowledge. This is not so for **certain** women.

**cer-tain** (sûr`tn) *adj.* **1.**

Definite; fixed: *set aside a certain sum each week.* **2.** Sure to come or happen; inevitable: *certain success.* **3.** Established beyond doubt or question; indisputable: *What is certain is that every effect must have a cause.* **4.** Capable of being relied on; dependable: *a quick and certain remedy.* **5.** Having or showing confidence; assured. **6.a.** Not specified or identified but assumed to be known: *a certain popular teacher; felt that certain breeds did not make good pets.* **b.** Named but not known or previously mentioned: *a certain Ms. Johnson.* **7.** Perceptible; noticeable: *a certain cozy charm; kept a certain air of mystery about him.* **8.** Not great; calculable:

**Certain** women have only one source of knowledge—God’s Word. As a result, they intellectualize much less than most women. They understand that too often the reason we experience difficulty in life is due to our inability to translate the information and knowledge we receive into wise actions or words. **Certain** women don’t try. Always the *faithful followers*--they get still, become calm, and they ask in prayer for the Lord’s guidance. They wait on the Lord, knowing that they will be guided by the Holy Spirit as to what to do.

**The Gift of Discernment--Certainty**

Knowledge is the root of understanding (discernment), it is the beginning point. Truth leads to knowledge. As every student of the scriptures knows, the Lord declared Himself to be “the Truth.” None other. The Spirit of Truth leads to knowledge that is different from the knowledge the world recognizes (information, data). Truth leads to spiritual knowledge or knowing—and, it is not open to interpretation. There is no need for interpretation.

The natural woman gains understanding by moving forward, following their human nature, and learning from experiences. The understanding given by the Spirit of Truth is felt as a “quickenings.” It is like a rush. It is a good feeling that lets certain followers know they are on the right track. The quickening of the spirit gives knowing a **certainty** which makes what **certain** followers know *concrete*. It is knowing that is not based on physical interpretation of our experiences. It is not an ability that everyone, or every woman, possesses. It is a spiritual gift.

**Becoming a Witness**

The **certain** women who followed the Lord were there to offer more than support, care and nurturing to Him and His Apostles. Like the apostles, they were eye-witnesses to the Lord’s ministry. They had close, hands-on opportunity to not only know Him, but to gain a true understanding of mankind’s human nature and God’s desire for how He wanted man to be. These certain women were in a unique position to pass on this information, to contribute to the Great Commission in a way that could not be hindered by their society’s view of a woman’s role.