

References for Jesus and women

Jesus' relationship with his family vs. his followers Lk 8:19
Samaritan woman Jn 4
Canaanite woman Mt 15:21-28
Sinner at dinner Lk 7:36-50
Women who supported him Lk 8:1-3
Widow's mite Lk 20:46-21:4
Woman with hemorrhage Mk 5:25-34
Widow of Nain Lk 7:11-17
Women at the cross Mt 27:55-56
Women at the resurrection Lk 24:1-12
Jesus' conversation with Mary and Martha at Bethany Jn 11:1-44
Mary listens to Jesus while Martha is busy preparing food Lk 10:38-42

What the Bible is and what it isn't

Is it like a user manual, or more like a 3-ring binder?

Despite the fact that our Bibles come bound, with print and formatting (mostly) the same throughout, they are in fact a compilation of all sorts of different documents, put together as God's word to us. Sort of like a 3-ring binder.

The Old Testament consists of documents of various kinds: creation stories, historical narrative, psalms, proverbs, "wisdom literature," prophecy. Each of these may contain material from earlier times combined with later writings. Remember there was no copyright at the time! No sense of "intellectual property."

The gospels consist of eye-witness accounts, passed on orally until someone decided to write them up later. See Luke 1:2. Christians believe that the Holy Spirit was involved in this whole process.

The New Testament contains a number of letters written to specific recipients to address specific concerns, sometimes (like 1 Corinthians) in response to questions the addressee had raised. There was no punctuation in the original manuscripts, and it's possible that these original questions are embedded in the response. That's for N.T. scholars to disentangle and they don't always agree!

What counted as "canon"--God's word to us--wasn't finally decided until the 4th century. There were many other documents which were excluded.

All of which is to say that we have to be careful when we say "The Bible says . . ."