

*MORE HIDDEN WOMEN
OF THE GOSPELS*



Kathy Coffey

ORBIS  BOOKS
Maryknoll, New York 10545

Founded in 1970, Orbis Books endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit, and challenge the conscience. The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Orbis Books, please visit our website at www.orbisbooks.com.

Copyright © 2020 by Kathy Coffey

Published by Orbis Books, Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

All rights reserved.

The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version: Catholic Edition, Copyright © 1989 and 1993, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Please note that in some instances the author has adapted the translation for the sole purpose of inclusivity.

In Chapter 14: “Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude” from *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude* by Ross Gay, copyright © 2015. Reprinted by permission of the University of Pittsburgh Press.

In Chapter 3: “Lord of the Dance,” by Sydney Carter. Copyright © 1963, Stainer & Bell, Ltd., London, England. (Administered by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL.) All rights reserved. Used with permission.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Queries regarding rights and permissions should be addressed to: Orbis Books, P.O. Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

Manufactured in the United States of America

Manuscript editing and typesetting by Joan Weber Laflamme.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Coffey, Kathy, author.

Title: More hidden women of the Gospels / Kathy Coffey.

Description: Maryknoll : Orbis Books, 2020. | Includes bibliographical references.

Identifiers: LCCN 2020017087 (print) | LCCN 2020017088 (ebook) | ISBN 9781626983847 (trade paperback) | ISBN 9781608338481 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: Women in the Bible. | Bible. Gospels.—Biography. | Bible. Acts.—Biography.

Classification: LCC BS2445 .C5936 2020 (print) | LCC BS2445 (ebook) | DDC 226/.0922082—dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020017087>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020017088>

Contents

Introduction xi

Part I Women in the Gospels

1. Pass the Baby—Anna the Prophetess
(*Luke 2:36–38*) 3
2. A Servant at Cana—Chloe
(*John 2:1–11*) 11
3. A Terrible Birthday—The Daughter of Herodias
(*Mark 6:17–28; Matthew 14:6–11*) 19
4. “Heal Me Too”—Mrs. Bartimaeus
(*Mark 10:46–52; Mark 8:22–26*) 27
5. My Crazy Dad—The Daughter of Zacchaeus
(*Luke 19:1–10*) 33
6. The Mother Who Brought Her Child to Jesus
(*Mark 10:13–16; Matthew 18:1–5, 19:13–15*) 39
7. The Woman Who Caught the Crumbs
(*Matthew 15:21–28; Mark 7:24–30*) 47
8. The Hint of a Mother
(*Mark 9:14–29*) 55

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 9. The Stowaway in the Synagogue
<i>(Luke 4:14–30)</i> | 63 |
| 10. The Sister of the Deaf
<i>(Mark 7:31–37)</i> | 69 |
| 11. The Mourner Who Lost Her Job—Marta
<i>(Mark 5:21–24, 35–43)</i> | 75 |
| 12. The Woman Who Called Out
<i>(Luke 11:27–28)</i> | 85 |
| 13. Eva, the Vineyard Owner
<i>(John 15:1–9)</i> | 93 |
| 14. Barabbas's Lover
<i>(Mark 15:6–15; Matthew 27:15–26; Luke 23:18–25)</i> | 101 |
| 15. And Still, Women Wait; Women Act—Salome
<i>(Mark 16:1–2; John 20:1–18)</i> | 109 |

Part II

Women in Metaphor and Parable

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 16. The Bakerwoman
<i>(Luke 13:20–21; Matthew 13:33)</i> | 123 |
| 17. The Woman Who Lost the Coin
<i>(Luke 15:8–10, 21:1–4; Mark 12:41–44)</i> | 131 |
| 18. The Foolish Bridesmaid
<i>(Matthew 25:1–13)</i> | 137 |
| 19. The Persistent Widow
<i>(Luke 18:1–8)</i> | 141 |

Part III
Women in Acts

20. Lydia (<i>Acts 16:14, 40</i>)	151
21. Prisca (<i>Acts 18:2, 18, 26; Romans 16:3; 1 Corinthians 16:19; 2 Timothy 4:19</i>)	155
22. Dorcas (<i>Acts 9:36–42</i>)	159
23. Phoebe and Friends (<i>Romans 16:1–2</i>)	167
Questions to Conclude Parts I–III	179

Part IV
Group Resources

The Samaritan Woman Speaks (<i>John 4:1–42</i>)	183
Chloe, a Servant at Cana, Speaks (<i>John 2:1–11</i>)	185
Zacchaeus's Daughter Speaks (<i>Luke 19:1–10</i>)	187
The Mother Who Brought Her Child to Jesus Speaks (<i>Mark 10:13–16; Matthew 18:1–5, 19:13–15</i>)	189
The Woman Who Lost the Coin Speaks (<i>Luke 15:8–10, 21:1–4</i>)	191

The Foolish Bridesmaid Speaks <i>(Matthew 25:1–13)</i>	193
The Persistent Widow Speaks <i>(Luke 18:1–8)</i>	195
Lydia Speaks <i>(Acts 16:14, 40)</i>	197
Prisca Speaks <i>(Acts 18:2, 18, 26; Romans 16:3; 1 Corinthians 16:19; 2 Timothy 4:19)</i>	199
Rhoda Speaks <i>(Acts 12:12–17)</i>	201