



# One Page Sermon

## By Pastor Robb McCoy

### March 17, 2024

## Accompany Others

Recap of sermon from March 17, 2024

Scripture: Luke 8:1-15

The Ride or Die Project claims that the phrase “Ride or Die” was popularized by hip artists in the 1990s. There would probably be some in the biker community who would dispute this origin from the phrase. Either way, the term has come to describe someone—usually a woman—who is someone who is loyal. Your “Ride or Die” is a friend who will support you to the end, even if things get rough.

TheRideorDieProject.com describes it as “someone whose loyalty is not only to their intimate partners but also to their families, friends, communities and even to political movements.” The concept that the woman is often unknown or at least less prominent is sometimes implied because a “Ride or Die” is not in it for their own fame or glory. They see that they are a part of something bigger than themselves.

The Ride or Die Project website shares stories of many “Ride or Die” women through the years. Two great examples are Betty Shabazz and Coretta Scott King. The wives of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, respectively, are often overlooked. Both were incredibly important to the movements their husbands famously led. They were intelligent, skilled, and contributed greatly to the civil rights movement in their own way. After their husbands were murdered, they were lauded for their own leadership.

In the beginning of the eighth chapter of Luke, some women are mentioned as being a part of Jesus’ entourage. It feels like a small detail, easily skipped on your way to one of Jesus’ most famous parables. Yet these women are not only mentioned, they are *named*, which in the entire Bible is fairly rare (one study suggests that there are a total of 1426 names in the Bible, and only 111 are women). Yet here, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna are named, and “many others” are mentioned as women who provided for Jesus. Another way to translate this is that they “ministered” to Jesus. It is the same Greek word from which we get the word “deacon.”

The first Deacons (along with Peter’s mother-in-law back at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry) were these women who acted as ministers to Jesus. They did not get the same notorie-

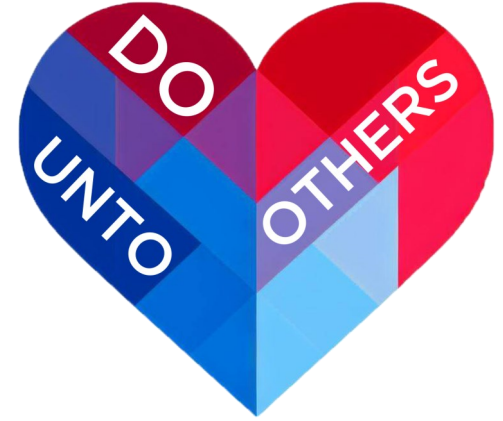
ty as Peter, James, John, and the others. There are not as many stained glass windows or statues with their images, but they were an important part of the ministry.

This mention of the women serves as an important bracket with the next mention of a woman—Jesus mother. In Luke 8:19-21 we read about Jesus’ mother and siblings waiting for him. Jesus replies “My mother and brothers are those who listen to God’s word and do it.” In between these two passages, Jesus tells the parable that describes the good soil that produces a multiplication of fruit. He also shares a short saying about placing your lamp on a lampstand.

All of this is an expansion on the first verses of the chapter. The women—who serve as ministers—are the good soil. They *are* the lamp we should hang on a stand. They *are* his mother and sisters.

Mary and Joanna are on the opposite sides of the social spectrum. Mary was saved from seven demons. Joanna walked in circles with King Herod. From the very bottom to the very top of the social ladder, these women came together to minister to Jesus. They share something else in common—they both took the concept of “Ride or Die” literally. They were there at the Cross as Jesus dies, and they were the first witnesses of Resurrection.

The “Ride or Die” women are the ones we need to emulate. Mary and Joanna, from beginning to end, were there serving, caring, and ministering to Jesus. We can be that for one another. We can be that kind of community for one another. We all need a good “Ride or Die” in life. The Holy Spirit is alive for us all, but we can also find the Mary, Joanna, and Susanna in our life—or be that for someone else.



**Next Week: Palm Sunday**  
**The triumphal entry and trial before Pilate**