



Anthem: "The First One Ever"

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By publicly including women in his ministry, Jesus broke through the prejudicial customs of his day. He offered his teachings freely to anyone who would listen and talked directly with women on numerous occasions.

Jesus' early followers continued to follow his example of including women in their gatherings (Acts 1:14) and counting them as fellow workers in the cause of sharing his message (Romans 16:3). Because of Jesus, all individuals are equal as children of God.¹

This anthem hymn recognizes five women who had various occasions to be "the first ever" to receive special messages regarding Jesus.

Maid Mary of Galilee received the angel's announcement of the coming birth of the Messiah. Mary humbly accepted Gabriel's news that she would be the Messiah's mother.

Blessed is she who believes. See Luke 1:26-38

The Samaritan woman at the well received the verbal announcement and identification from Jesus himself that he is the Messiah. She perceived the truth and told other Samaritans who then believed.

Blessed is she who perceives. See John 4:7-26

Mary, Joanna, and Mary Magdalene received the news of the resurrection. They saw the empty tomb; they then saw two men who were dressed in clothes that gleamed like lightning and who told them Jesus had risen and was alive. The women then told the disciples.

Blessed are they who see. See Luke 24:1-11

Anthem Hymn 276 – The First One Ever

The first one ever, oh ever to know
of the birth of Jesus was the Maid Mary,
was Mary the Maid of Galilee,
and blessed is she who believes.

The first one ever, oh ever to know
of the Messiah Jesus, when he said, "I am he,"
was the Samaritan woman who drew from the well,
and blessed is she who perceives.

The first one ever, oh ever to know
of the rising of Jesus, his glory to be,
were Mary, Joanna, and Magdalene,
and blessed are they who see.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we're grateful you are the God of all and offer your love and mercy to all. Thank you for these who were eyewitnesses and who believed, perceived, and saw Jesus as the Messiah. It is through the bold testimony and teachings of witnesses such as these that we, too, are believers. Amen.

¹The Role of Women in the Bible. jewsforjesus.org - adapted from article by Zhava Glaser published in 1988.