

**Explanations & References**  
**To go along with the**  
**“Who’s Who in the Easter Story” Cards sold on Etsy**  
**But you can create your own by writing the names on papers**

Compiled by Lani Hilton

In the accounts of Christ from Gethsemane to his Resurrection about 40 individuals or groups are mentioned. The list below gives a brief explanation of these people, along with one or more scripture references for further learning. (This is not a comprehensive description or list of references.) This list is meant to help get us into the scriptures and better understand these sacred events. Only people who are specifically mentioned during the events are included in this list, although others were surely participants. It is important to note that each gospel writer portrays slightly different details, but in each account the key events are the same: Jesus Christ died and rose again. Find and study the Easter story in Matthew 26-28, Mark 14-16, Luke 22-24, John 17-21. He is Risen!

**“All his acquaintances”** who watch the crucifixion at a distance. Luke 24:49.

**Angel in Gethsemane** who strengthens Jesus. Luke 22:43.

Females

1. **A group of women** Jesus speaks to as he was carrying the cross, on the way to Calvary. He tells them to not weep for him but to weep for themselves. Luke 23:27-31
2. **Damsel** by the fire who asks Peter if he knows Jesus. Matthew 26: 69.
3. **Joanna** is healed by Jesus, ministers to Jesus of her substance from city to city in Galilee. She is at the cross and at the tomb. Her name is not mentioned in Luke 23:49 at the cross, but if you follow the storyline from Luke 23-24 without the chapter break it seems that the group of women mentioned in 23:49 and 23:55,56 is the same group mentioned in Luke 24:1-10. Luke 8:1-3.
4. **Jesus’ aunt.** She is present at the cross. John 19:25.
5. **Little maid** by the fire who asks Peter if he knows Jesus. Luke 22:55-57, John 18:17. This is in addition to the damsel, mentioned above. Matthew 26: 69-71.

6. **Many women who followed Jesus from Galilee** who are healed by Jesus and minister to Jesus from city to city in Galilee. They are at the cross and at the tomb. Luke 8:1-3, Luke 23:49, 55-56; Luke 24:10; Mark 15:40-41.
7. **Mary Magdalene** is healed by Jesus. She ministers to Jesus of her substance from city to city in Galilee. She is at the cross and at the tomb. She is the first witness of the resurrected Jesus. John 20:11-18, John 18:13, 24, John 19:25, Mark 15:40, Matthew 28:1, 9-10.
8. **Mary of Clopas** is at the cross. This is possibly the same individual as Jesus's aunt, but it is not certain. In the KJV her name is spelled with an e, but in it Greek it is not. John 19:25
9. **Mary the mother of James and Joses** is at the cross. She is likely the same as "The other Mary" listed in Matthew at the tomb with Mary Magdalene. Matthew 27:55-56, Matthew 28:1, 9-10, Mark 15:40.
10. **Mary the mother of Jesus** is at the cross. John 19:25
11. **Mother of Zebedee's children** (James and John) is at the cross. She is possibly the same as Salome because they are included in similar lists, but we don't know for sure. Matthew 27: 55-56.
12. **Pilate's wife, who** is known as Procula in post-New Testament sources, has a dream about Jesus and pleads with Pilate that Jesus is innocent. Matt 27:19.
13. **Salome** is at the cross and the tomb. She is named in Mark 15:40-41, Mark 16:1.
14. **The Other Mary** who comes with Mary Magdalene to the tomb, sees the angel and then sees the Resurrected Jesus and touches his feet (This could be the same as Mary of Clopas, Mary the mother of James and Joses, or Mary of Bethany, but we just don't know because it is not clarified in scripture.) Matthew 28:1, 8-10.
15. **The Woman who anoints Jesus' head** prior to the Last Supper. She pours expensive perfume on Jesus' head and is criticized by those near her. Jesus commends her, says she has anointed him before his burial, and teaches that wherever the gospel is preached she should be remembered. (She is included as a bonus in this deck since she appears before the events of Gethsemane, possibly anointing Jesus on Wednesday of Holy Week.) Mark 14:3-9, Matthew 26:6-13 (She is possibly different than Mary of Bethany who anoints Jesus' feet in John 12:1-8)

## Males

1. **Angel(s) at the tomb** who declare to the women that Jesus is risen. Mark describes him as a young man. Luke 24:4-8, Matthew 28: 2-7, Mark 16:5.
2. **Annas**, the father-in-law of the high priest, major figure in Jewish leadership, oversees Jesus' trial at night with Caiaphas. He is also mentioned after the Resurrection when Peter and John are brought before him. John 18:13, 24, Acts 4:6
3. **Barabbas** is a prisoner who commits murder in a political revolt. He was released instead of Jesus. Matthew 27:15-26.
4. **Caiaphas the high priest**. He asks Jesus if he was the son of God and accuses Jesus of blasphemy. Matthew 26:57-68.
5. **Centurion** at the foot of the cross who declares "Surely this was the Son of God" when he sees all that is happening at Jesus' death. Matthew 27:54.
6. **Chief Priests and the whole Sanhedrin**, Jewish leaders who try to find evidence against Jesus. They accuse him of blasphemy, spit on Jesus, slap him and hit him. They make plans for how to execute Jesus and take him to Pilate. They shout, "Crucify him!" Mark 14:53, Matthew 26:3-5, 57-67, 27:1, John 19:6.
7. **Cleopas and his companion** (possibly his wife). Two disciples who walk the road to Emmaus on Sunday. They walk with Jesus and tell him about how sad things are and that they "had hoped" Jesus was the Christ, only to recognize Jesus as he breaks bread before he departs. Luke 24: 13-35.
8. **Disciples in Gethsemane** who are named as Peter and the sons of Zebedee (James and John). Other disciples are also there. They sleep when Jesus asks them to watch and pray. They flee when he is arrested. Matthew 26:36-46, 56, John 18:1.
9. **Disciples who eat fish and honeycomb Sunday evening** when Jesus appears while they are gathered behind closed doors. They then go to Galilee, see the resurrected Jesus there again, and receive the commandment to take the gospel to the world. Luke 24:36-39, Matthew 28:16-20.
10. **Guards at the tomb** are placed there by the chief priests so followers would not steal his body and say he had risen. The guards are so afraid when they see the angel and the earthquake Sunday morning at the tomb that they run from the tomb. They give a report to the chief priests who make a deal with them to lie about what they saw. Matthew 27:62-66, 28:11-15.

11. **Herod Antipas** is the political leader over the Galilee area and was in Jerusalem during the trial of Jesus. He asks Jesus questions, but Jesus remained silent. Herod and his soldiers mock and ridicule him. Luke 23:6-11.
12. **Jesus** suffers in Gethsemane and pleads to have the bitter cup removed. He dies for our sins, comes back to life, and appears to many. Matthew 26:36-46, Matthew 27, 1 Corinthians 15:1-1.
13. **Joseph of Arimathea** is a wealthy Jewish leader who begs Pilate for the body of Jesus and offers his unused tomb. He is secretly a disciple of Jesus. John 19:38, Luke 23: 50-53, Mark 15: 42-46, Matt 27:57-60.
14. **Judas Iscariot** makes a deal with the chief priests to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, betrays Jesus with a kiss in the Garden of Gethsemane, feels remorseful, tries to give back the money and undo what he had done. Matthews 26:14-16, 27:1-5.
15. **Malchus** is a servant of the high priest. He comes to help arrest Jesus and Peter cuts off his ear. Jesus heals his ear. John 18:10.
16. **Nicodemus** is a Pharisee who comes with 75 pounds of ointments and helps with the burial of Jesus. John 19:39-42.
17. **Peter** is with Jesus in Gethsemane and cuts off the ear of one who had come to arrest Jesus. He follows Jesus to the palace of the high priest but stays at a distance. He denies Jesus three times and then weeps. He runs to the tomb Sunday after hearing Mary's report. Matthew 26: 51, 57-58, 69-75; Mark 14:47, Luke 22:49-50, John 18:10-11, John 20:2-10.
18. **Pilate** is a governor of Judea who oversaw the trial of Jesus. He finds him innocent and tries to release him, but the people demanded he be crucified. Pilate washes his hands of it but does not stop Christ's Crucifixion. Luke 23:1-7, 13-23, Matthew 27:24, John 18:28-40.
19. **Roman Soldiers** who whip Jesus, mock Jesus with a crown of thorns, robe and staff, spit on him, then crucify him, cast lots for his clothing and place a sign above his head. Matthew 27:26-37, Luke 23:11.
20. **Servant of the high priest** who asks Peter if he knows Jesus. He is related to Malchus. Luke 22:59-6, John 18:26.
21. **Simon of Cyrene** who carries the cross for Jesus. Mark mentions he has two sons, Rufus and Alexander. Matthew 27:32, Mark 15:21, Luke 23:26.

22. **The beloved disciple**, likely John, is at the cross, and given responsibility for the mother of Jesus. John does not name himself in his gospel but seems to refer to himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved. He runs to the tomb after hearing Mary's report. John 19:26-27, John 20: 2-10.
23. **Thief on the cross who mocked Jesus** on the cross. Luke 23:39.
24. **Thief on the cross who asked to be remembered** by Jesus. Jesus spoke to him and said they would see each other in paradise. Luke 23: 40-42.
25. **Thomas** is not present when Jesus appears to the other disciples Sunday evening. He said he wouldn't believe that Jesus was alive unless he saw him himself. Jesus appeared to him eight days later. John 20:24-25.
26. **Young man** who flees naked when Jesus was arrested. He is so terrified he leaves his clothes behind, showing that all deserted Jesus. Mark 14:51-52.