



***The Day I Met Jesus:  
The Revealing Diaries of Five  
Women from the Gospels***

Frank Viola and Mary DeMuth

ISBN: 9780801016851

\$13.99

Paperback

208 pages

Pub Date: March 2015

**For Publicity Contact:**

Karen Campbell

Karen Campbell Media, Inc.

(616) 309-4390

karencampbellmedia@gmail.com

## ***Two Thousand Years Ago, Jesus Christ Met Face-to-face with People Just Like You***

***Compelling Blend of Biblical Narrative and Spiritual  
Insight Helps Readers Read Gospel Stories Afresh***

For those who met him, Jesus was a life-changer—even those whose encounters with him were brief. In *The Day I Met Jesus: The Revealing Diaries of Five Women from the Gospels*, bestselling author Frank Viola and veteran novelist Mary DeMuth present an engaging retelling of women who met Jesus and were never the same.

Though they may not have recognized it, each of these women searched for something, desperate for wholeness, security, purpose—to be seen and loved. They battled brokenness, imperfection and fear. Yet, despite societal expectations of how women were to be treated, Jesus pursued each one, showing He was the only one who could truly meet every need.

DeMuth's accomplished storytelling, solidly grounded in the Gospel and faithful to first-century history, animates the woman caught in adultery, the prostitute who loved much, the Samaritan woman, the woman with a flow of blood and the woman whom Jesus loved, helping us to see ourselves in these stories. Viola's profound biblical insight helps readers to see what's often missed when reading these familiar Gospel stories and discover the life-changing impact Jesus can also have on men and women today

“May you, dear Christian, encounter the same glorious Christ that these women encountered, and lift your voice to tell the world about that day—the day that you too encountered Jesus.”

**Baker Books** has a vision for building up the body of Christ through books that are relevant, intelligent and engaging.

We publish titles for lay Christians on topics such as discipleship, apologetics, spirituality, relationships, marriage, parenting and the intersection of Christianity and culture. We also publish books and ministry resources for pastors and church leaders, concentrating on topics such as preaching, worship, pastoral ministries, counseling, biblical reference and leadership.

## **Authors of *The Day I Met Jesus***

**Frank Viola** has helped thousands of people around the world to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ and enter into a more vibrant and authentic experience of church. He has written many books on these themes, including *God's Favorite Place on Earth* and *From Eternity to Here*. His blog, [frankviola.org](http://frankviola.org), is ranked in the top ten of all Christian blogs on the Web today. He ministers to people all over the world from Florida. Follow him on Twitter @FrankViola.

**Mary DeMuth** is a former church planter in France and the author of more than sixteen nonfiction and fiction books. A sought-after speaker and longtime blogger, she has overcome (through Jesus's healing) a difficult childhood full of neglect, abuse, and familial dysfunction to become a living example of what it means to live uncaged. She lives in Texas with her family. Connect with her at [marydemuth.com](http://marydemuth.com) or @MaryDeMuth.

*The Day I Met Jesus* is published in association with the literary agency of Daniel Literary Group, LLC, Nashville, TN and in association with the literary agency of The Fedd Agency, Inc., Austin, TX

## **Suggested Interview Questions for Frank Viola and Mary DeMuth, Authors of *The Day I Met Jesus***

- Give us an overview of the woman caught in adultery. What was really going on behind the scenes of this often-read story?
- Luke 7 tells the story of the prostitute who anointed Jesus' feet in the house of a Pharisee. What are some of the unique features that are often missed when contemporary Christians read this story?
- Why didn't Jews like Samaritans? How else would the story of the Samaritan woman been shocking to its original audience?
- Where can we see ourselves in the story of the Samaritan woman?
- In what ways would the woman with the flow of blood have been ostracized? How did you weave this into her diary?
- What can we learn from how the woman with the flow of blood handled her painful situation?
- You refer to Mary of Bethany as "The woman whom Jesus loved." Why?
- Why is the way Jesus treated women so unique for that historical time period? Why is it significant?

**Baker Books** has a vision for building up the body of Christ through books that are relevant, intelligent and engaging.

We publish titles for lay Christians on topics such as discipleship, apologetics, spirituality, relationships, marriage, parenting and the intersection of Christianity and culture. We also publish books and ministry resources for pastors and church leaders, concentrating on topics such as preaching, worship, pastoral ministries, counseling, biblical reference and leadership.

## Endorsements for *The Day I Met Jesus*

“What a treasure this diary-style book is! This impactful message focuses on five broken women in the Bible and their life-changing encounters with Jesus. The way Mary and Frank portray their stories will help any woman who has experienced heartbreak, loneliness, and rejection step right into the extravagant grace and love of Jesus.”

–**Lysa TerKeurst**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Best Yes*; president of Proverbs 31 Ministries

“Jesus, from the very beginning, has been 'good news for women.' Perhaps that news has rarely been needed more clearly than in our day. One reads of His encounters with the women described in this book with a sense of wonder that these interactions took place two thousand years ago. He is good news for women still.”

–**John Ortberg**, pastor; author of *Who Is This Man?*

“Mary and Frank provide a fresh look at biblical women that breathes life, color, and hue into these familiar stories. If you want to better understand the richness of biblical accounts in the context of first-century history, this is a book you won't want to miss.”

–**Margaret Feinberg**, author of *Fight Back with Joy* and *Wonderstruck*

“Step into the first century, as your senses and imagination are engaged in Mary DeMuth's masterful biblical narrative, deftly exploring the hearts and minds of five women who met the Savior. Then Frank Viola brings his own gifts to the page, opening the Scriptures to help us understand each account more fully. Together, their voices sing of the beauty of Christ and the redemption He offers. *The Day I Met Jesus* is truly a wonderful book.”

–**Liz Curtis Higgs**, bestselling author of *Bad Girls of the Bible*

“Elegant, stimulating, rewarding, this probe into Jesus' relationship with women packages the best of biblical scholarship and theology in the spellbinding wraps of storytelling.”

–**Leonard Sweet**, bestselling author; professor (Drew University, George Fox University); chief contributor to [sermons.com](http://sermons.com)

“We all long to lift the veil of history and catch a glimpse of the real story--the one that makes our hearts pound, our faith grow, and our lives change. That's exactly what Frank Viola and Mary DeMuth offer in this compelling book. You will never look at Scripture or God's work in your own heart the same way again after you close the final page.”

–**Holley Gerth**, author of *You're Already Amazing* and *You're Made for a God-Sized Dream*

**Baker Books** has a vision for building up the body of Christ through books that are relevant, intelligent and engaging.

We publish titles for lay Christians on topics such as discipleship, apologetics, spirituality, relationships, marriage, parenting and the intersection of Christianity and culture. We also publish books and ministry resources for pastors and church leaders, concentrating on topics such as preaching, worship, pastoral ministries, counseling, biblical reference and leadership.

## Selected Excerpts from *The Day I Met Jesus*

### Jesus and Women (Page 42)

“There’s something else in this story that’s often overlooked. The scribes and Pharisees chose a woman to be their example instead of a man. They could have easily entrapped a man and made him the example to put Jesus to the test. But they chose a woman, reinforcing a common mentality in that day.

The overall culture held women to a different standard than men. They were sometimes treated as scapegoats, and many took their sin more seriously than men’s transgressions.

But the Lord stood against sexual stereotyping and religious scapegoating. He had a strong aversion to double standards.

Throughout His ministry, Christ exalted women as equal to men. He was the only teacher of His day who had female disciples. What is more, every sin that a man committed was no different in His eyes than if a woman had committed it. And He died for all of them.”

### Diary of a Desperate Samaritan Woman (Page 86)

“As I drew near, He turned toward me and looked deeply into my eyes. I had a strange feeling that He knew me. He smiled confidently, paused, cleared His throat, and reached out His hand. ‘Would you please give Me a drink?’” His voice sounded parched, nearly dried up. But it was His words that stunned me to silence.

What kind of holy man dared to talk to me in public? But not just any man—a Jew, as His accent gave his lineage away. A Jewish man talking to me? Wanting only water and nothing more?”

### The Heart of Mary (Page 168)

“Here is a woman who was hungrier to learn from Jesus than she was to obey customs or traditions. And she refused to let propriety stop her from sitting at the Master’s feet and becoming one of His disciples.

What is more, Mary seemed to instinctively know that Jesus would praise both of these acts, even though they represented cultural taboos.

She guessed right. He elevated both.

When Martha chided her sister for acting like a man, leaving her to work in the kitchen, Jesus defended Mary.

The fact that Mary didn’t defend herself tells us something vitally important about her. It shows us that she valued humility, understood the power of brokenness, and willingly submitted to the hand of God.

The story makes clear that Martha’s act of serving sprung from good motivation, though misguided. Jesus revealed this when He contrasted the ‘many things’ (that Martha worried about) with the ‘one thing’ (that Mary gave herself to).

The ‘one thing’ is actually a person—Jesus Himself. And the ‘better thing’ is to sit at His feet, to become His disciple.”

**Baker Books** has a vision for building up the body of Christ through books that are relevant, intelligent and engaging.

We publish titles for lay Christians on topics such as discipleship, apologetics, spirituality, relationships, marriage, parenting and the intersection of Christianity and culture. We also publish books and ministry resources for pastors and church leaders, concentrating on topics such as preaching, worship, pastoral ministries, counseling, biblical reference and leadership.