

# In Remembrance of Her

*Following Sunday's sermon, "Let Her Keep Silent?"*

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## SCRIPTURE · ROMANS 16:1–2, 7

*Paul commends "our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreae," and asks the church to welcome her and help her in whatever she needs, "for she has been a benefactor of many and of myself as well." He then greets Andronicus and Junia, who were "prominent among the apostles."*

## REFLECTION

Most of us skim the greetings at the end of Paul's letters. They read like the credits at the end of a movie: a long list of names we don't recognize, scrolling past while we reach for our coats.

But some of the most important people in the story are hiding in those credits.

Phoebe was a deacon and a patron, and Paul trusted her to carry his letter to Rome. Junia was an apostle. For centuries, though, many Bibles printed her name as "Junias," a man's name that doesn't appear anywhere else in the ancient world. She was in scripture all along. She just got written over, one pen stroke at a time.

It's easy to shake our heads at those old copyists. It's harder to ask whose names we are still writing over. Who in our families, our workplaces, or our church does the faithful work while someone else gets the credit? Whose wisdom do we only notice when it comes out of a different mouth?

Jesus once said that a woman who anointed him would be remembered wherever the good news is told, "in remembrance of her" (Mark 14:9). God keeps track of the names we forget. This week, we're invited to keep track too.

## PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

Read Romans 16 slowly and count the women Paul names and thanks. Then think of one woman whose faith or work has shaped you but who rarely gets thanked. Write her a note, give her a call, or tell someone else her story.

## PRAYER

*God who remembers every name,  
forgive us for the voices we have talked over  
and the names we have let fade.  
Open our eyes to the Phoebes and Junias among us,  
and give us the courage to say their names out loud.  
Amen.*