

### 3-27-22 Mary Magdalene

Mark 16:9, Luke 8:1-3, John 20:1-18, John 8:1-12, Luke 7:37-38, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Luke 24: 36-53

Read Luke 8:1-3.

What does the Bible tell us about Mary Magdalene? She was possessed by 7 demons that Jesus healed. According to **Luke 8:1-3** there were certain woman that had been healed by Jesus that traveled with Him.

She was the first person to witness the resurrected Jesus on the first Easter Sunday.

**Mark 16:9, "Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons."**

**Read John 20:1, then 11-18.** Mary was so overwhelmed with joy that she about tackled him when she fell at Jesus' feet worshipping. (cf. **Matthew 28:9-10**)

**Luke 23:44-49, 55; Mark 15:40; Matthew 27:55**, places Mary at the cross watching helplessly as her Lord and Savior died. **Luke 24:1,8-11; Mark 16:1-2, 9; Matthew 28:1**, has her one of the certain women that were coming back to Jesus' grave to finish preparing Jesus' body for burial. But when they show up, Jesus was no longer in the borrowed tomb.

Mary Magdalene had her whole life rescued, restored, put back together, and turned right-side up by Jesus. When the Messiah crossed paths with Mary Magdalene one unforgettable day, her shattered life was being held hostage.

Can you imagine what it would be like to be possessed by not one but seven demons?! Can you imagine the loneliness and hopelessness? Having well intentioned priests try and heal you to only be left in desperation, and out of control. The ridicule and judgement that would come with being inflicted with demon possession would be devastating. Think about what the demons would have done to her and through her, the torment, and agony. If she ever had moments of a normal mind, you could bet she felt worthless, defeated, great sorrow, physical pain, unwanted, I bet she wished she had never been born.

Can any of us even fathom? Even imagine how hopeless she felt. You and I rub elbows with people that feel hopeless, desperate, and unwanted. Many try and hide their pain behind smiles and play their part to appear to be ok. You would never guess they are such a train wreck because they are juggling their plates of life. But inside they are dying and falling apart. Some will self-medicate with drugs, alcohol, sex, anything to dull the pain. Others will physically harm themselves, feeling they deserve it.

This is exactly where Jesus enters in. He stepped into Mary's life, and she was set free from demon possession, her sins, and the path she was on. Jesus changed everything about Mary! She was living proof of,

**2 Corinthians 5:17, Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.**

#### 1. Others may not choose/want us, but Jesus does!

- For some their past might be too dark for others, but not Jesus.
- When all others walk away, Jesus walks in. Where there is no answer to be found in man's wisdom, Jesus is the answer.

- What is impossible with man, is possible with God. My God can do anything! His love is so much greater than words can express.
- Look again at **John 20:11-18. Verse 11**, Mary is weeping, sobbing; the only one to truly love her is gone. I am sure the loneliness and hopelessness started to creep back into her head and heart. The two angels ask her why she is crying. (By the way, Mary isn't interested in worshipping angels, she is seeking her Lord, Jesus)
- The two angels sitting, one where Jesus' feet were and the other where His head was is fulfilment of what OT temple furniture? (Mercy seat, **Exodus 25:17-19**)
- She was so distraught that she didn't even realize Jesus was standing there (**verse 14**).
- **Verse 15, "supposing"** Too many Christians (Me included) today are miserable because they "suppose" something that is not at all true.
- **Verse 16, "Jesus said to her, "Mary!"** When Jesus spoke her name, she recognized Him. He calls His own by name (**John 10:3-4**), and they know His voice. (**Isa. 43:1**.)

**John 10:3-4, To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.**

**Isaiah 43:1, But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.**

- Don't let Jesus' appearing to Mary go by you flippantly. **In verse 17** He says, **"Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father..."** When Jesus arose from the grave, He was ascending to the Father in heaven to present His finished work. That secret ascension fulfilled the type of sacrifice discussed in **Lev. 23:1-14**, the waving of the "first fruits sheaf" the next day after the Sabbath (**1 Cor. 15:23**).
- Jesus believed in Mary Magdalene. He believed she was worth rescuing from the evil living rent-free inside her that needed to be evicted. And Jesus believed she was the one who should be the first to encounter Him on the other side of death once He emerged from the tomb. She witnessed His resurrection, and believed with all her heart, soul, mind, and strength.
- Once Mary encountered Jesus near the tomb, she instantly went to relay the news of her meeting with Jesus. And she invested her life, continuing to tell others of this One who had rescued her and defeated death. People must know this life-altering story of Jesus and His power that is worth believing. Mary's meeting with Christ made her a missionary!

## 2. What Jesus knows about you is what is important.

- Of the few specifics that we do know about Mary Magdalene's life, the fact that she had a dark past is one of them. We know Mary once harbored seven demons in her precious life. That much is known about her. However, it is inaccurate to connect Mary's dark past with any specific sinful actions or allusions to "loose-living," as some have tried to do throughout church history.

- Some biblical commentators have tried to link Mary Magdalene with the woman caught in adultery in **John 8:1-12**, others with the unnamed woman labeled as “a sinner” in **Luke 7:37-38** who anointed Jesus’ feet before wiping them with her hair, not to mention scores of extrabiblical mythology throughout history (Mary being Jesus’ wife). None of these connections to Mary Magdalene are supported with valid evidence.
- Often the same is true in our lives. People get “extra” added on to what simply is not accurate, but it unfortunately sometimes tends to stick and become part of one’s identity and story. Mary Magdalene may be able to relate to that kind of undeserved reputation. However, nothing could shift her away from the power of her initial demon cleansing interaction with Jesus. At that moment, she became brand new from the inside out.
- The power Jesus invokes into the lives of those who are now changed by Him is the reality we must hold on to as we walk through all our tomorrows.
- If a person is **“in Christ,”** something life-changing has happened. If a person has started a new relationship with Jesus Christ because a choice was made to put their faith, hope, and trust in Jesus to be that person’s Savior, a whole new approach to life is now available.
- Becoming a new creation by the power of Jesus means He is the Lord of your life. He is the One you live for, the One you submit to, and the One you bend your will to in every choice in your life.
- When an individual believes in their heart, God raised Jesus from the dead, not only is that person saved from their sins that separated them from Holy God, but that person is indeed a new creation.

N.T. Wright’s take on this task from Jesus to His followers sums up what Mary Magdalene would invest her life in all her days. Wright notes, ***“Repentance’ and ‘forgiveness of sins’ are not, therefore, simply a matter for the individual, though they certainly are that. At the heart of being a Christian is the personal turning away from sin, and celebrating God’s forgiveness, which is, after all, at the heart of the Lord’s Prayer itself. But these two words go much wider as well. They are the agenda which can change the world.”***

## **Conclusion**

Mary Magdalene’s world had been changed by Jesus. She, in turn, would do everything she could to fulfill what Jesus had told her and the others to do. She would go and tell the good news to a world that needed to be changed by His mercy and grace. She was a living example of what the power of Jesus could do to restore life and freedom to one who had experienced the exact opposite for far too long. How could she keep such good news to herself? How can we?