

Mary of Magdala

Luke 8:1-3

Luke 8:1-3

- “Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with Him, 2 and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities--Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, 3 and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.”

Mary of Magdala

- Mary (or Miriam) of Magdala (Migdal or the Tower), a fishing village on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee.
- She was healed by Jesus from possession by seven demons.
- She is described in the New Testament as a devoted disciple of Jesus
- She was one of many women that accompanied Jesus and the Twelve during His travels.
- Mary was at the cross and watched Jesus die
- She sat and kept a vigil at His tomb
- She was the first to witness the resurrected Christ
- She was sent to tell the apostles the basic tenet of the faith -- that Jesus had risen.

Mary of Magdala

- Matt. 27:55-56, 59-61 - “And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar, 56 among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons... 59 When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60 and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed. 61 And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the tomb.”

Mary of Magdala

- John 20:1-2 - “Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. 2 Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.”

Mary of Magdala

- John 20:11-18 - “But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. 13 Then they said to her, Woman, why are you weeping? She said to them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him. 14 Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking? She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away. 16 Jesus said to her, Mary! She turned and said to Him, Rabboni! (which is to say, Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God. 18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.”

Mary of Magdala

- This is the last mention in the gospel accounts of Mary Magdalene, who returned to Jerusalem.
- She is probably included in the group of women who joined the Apostles in the Upper Room in Jerusalem after Jesus' ascension - Acts 1:14
- According to tradition, she departed to Ephesus with Theotokos (Mary, the mother of Jesus), where she died.

Mary of Magdala Is Not:

- Contrary to popular belief and historical Catholic Church doctrine, nowhere does the Bible say that she was a prostitute or had an intimate relationship with Jesus or any of the apostles.
- This view is attributed to Pope Gregory who misidentified her as an immoral woman and a meretrix or prostitute.
- Textual critics of the German school of liberalism 200 years ago in an effort to discredit Jesus, called her a prostitute that became a secret wife of Jesus.

Mary of Magdala Is Not:

- Martin Scorsese popularized this myth in his irreverent waste of film called The Last Temptation of Christ.
- Dan Brown promoted this in his waste paper book called the DaVinci Code
- Mary Magdalene is not the “sinful woman” depicted in Luke 7:36-50. It has similarities with another story of Jesus being anointed by Mary of Bethany near the end of his ministry and is often confused with it.

Mary of Magdala In Religious Tradition

- Mary Magdalene is often portrayed holding a red Easter egg with the words Christ is Risen. For centuries, it has been the custom of many Christians to share dyed and painted eggs, particularly on Easter Sunday. The eggs represent new life, and Christ bursting from the tomb
- She is considered the patron saint of the contemplative life, converts, glove makers, hairdressers, penitent sinners, people ridiculed for their piety, perfumeries, pharmacists, tanners, women
- She is a central figure in later ersatz apocryphal Gnostic writings, including the Dialogue of the Savior, the Pistis Sophia, the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Philip, and the Gospel of Mary

She Was Desperate

- Luke 8:2 - “And certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities--Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons”
- If that is what one demon can do to a man, what did seven of them do to Mary?

She Was Desperate

- She illustrates our condition in sin
 - Eph. 2:1-3, 12 - “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others... 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.”

She Was Delivered

- Jesus had the authority and power of God in this world
 - Power over diseases and physical ailments (Matt. 9:20-22).
 - Authority over material objects (Matt. 14:15-21).
 - Control over the elements of nature (Matt. 8:23-27).
 - Suspended the force of gravity (Matt. 14:22-23).
 - Power over death (Matt. 9:18-26).
- He would certainly have power over the minions of Satan

She Was Delivered

- He has the power to release us
 - Eph. 2:4-6 - “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus”
 - 2Cor. 5:17 - “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

She Was Devoted

- Her devotion is seen in her finances
 - Luke 8:2-3 - “...Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, 3 and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.”

She Was Devoted

- Are we like Mary, or Judah?
 - Mal. 3:8-10 - “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, In what way have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings. 9 You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this, Says the LORD of hosts, If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.”

She Was Devoted

- Her devotion is seen in how she followed
 - Nearly everywhere Jesus went teaching in the Gospel accounts, Mary Magdalene was nearby.
 - She followed Him to Calvary and watched as He died - John 19:25.
 - She followed His body to the tomb and remained there - Matt. 27:55-61.

She Was Devoted

- How far will we go to follow Him?
 - Matt. 6:33 - “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”
 - Matt. 16:24 - “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

She Was Devoted

- Her devotion is seen in her faithfulness
 - John 20:11-18
- When others are walking away and leaving standing alone in the cemetery, are you going to stay and wait for the Lord?
 - Rev. 2:10 - “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

Mary of Magdala

- Isn't it ironic that the first person to see the resurrected Savior and Son of God, and the first person to announce His resurrection to the apostles, an event for which the world had been waiting since the Garden of Eden, was a woman who had formerly been demon possessed?
- "Mary Magdalene was content to wait on the Lord without the notice of others. She was the kind of person who would do the dishes at the Last Supper." (*David Markson*)
- "As we read, ponder, and pray, there will come into our minds a view of the three gardens of God: the Garden of Eden, the Garden of Gethsemane, and the Garden of the Empty Tomb where Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene." (*Bruce R. McConkie*)