

Mary Magdalene: Loving Jesus in Practical Ways
Lesson Text: Luke 8: 1-3; Mark 15: 37-47 and John 20: 1-18
June 15, 2022

Introduction: *Twelve men followed Jesus. They are so well known that children recite their names. But Jesus had women following him too. Some are nameless. Others appear with their sons. And some walk through the pages of scripture with their own names intact.*

These women also assisted in Christ's work. They too learn from his teachings. They show their love for Jesus in practical ways. Mary Magdalene was one of them. Mary Magdalene was one of a substantial number of women who followed Jesus and helped to care for his needs and the needs of others who traveled with him. Her story is told in small snippets spread throughout the gospels.

Review Questions:

1. In view of all that you have read, what kind of person is Mary Magdalene?
2. **Read Luke 8:1-3.** What do these verses reveal about Mary Magdalene? (Consider her past, her work, her friends.)
3. **Read Mark 15:37-47.** Why do you think Mary Magdalene chose to be present at Christ's death?
4. What would she have seen, heard, learned, and felt as she watched Christ die?
5. What changes had to take place in Mary Magdalene for her to grow from a person inhabited by seven demons to a person who followed Jesus all the way to his death?
6. Jesus delivered Mary Magdalene from seven demons. What influences of evil has Jesus defeated in your life?
7. **Read John 20:1-18.** If you were a detective observing all the events in these verses, what clues would you record?
8. What variety of feelings do you sense in the meeting between Mary Magdalene and Jesus?
9. Study Christ's statement in John 20:17. What does it reveal about the relationships between the various people mentioned?
10. What effect would Mary Magdalene's message have on the disciples and on the future church?

Reflect and Pray:

- *Meditate for a moment on the ways Christ's death and resurrection have influenced your own life. How are you different because of the events Mary Magdalene witnessed at those times?*
- *After reading the text for this study, what all do you find that shows Mary Magdalene as a person who exercised her love for Jesus in practical ways.*
- *Spend time in quiet meditation and reflection. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead and show you some practical ways you can show your love for Jesus by loving others?*

Luke 8:1-3 Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and ^[a]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 ^[b]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 ^[c]Him from their ^[d]substance.

Mark 15:37-47 ³⁷ And Jesus cried out with a loud voice and breathed His last.

³⁸ Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that ^[a]He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, “Truly this Man was the Son of God!”

⁴⁰ There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome, ⁴¹ who also followed Him and ministered to Him when He was in Galilee, and many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.

Jesus Buried in Joseph’s Tomb

⁴² Now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming, and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵ So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷ And Mary Magdalene and Mary *the mother* of Joses observed where He was laid.

John 20: 1-18 The Empty Tomb

¹ Now 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.”

³ Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. ⁴ So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. ⁵ And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying *there*; yet he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying *there*, ⁷ and the ^[a]handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. ⁹ For as yet they did not ^[b]know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.

Mary Magdalene Sees the Risen Lord

¹¹ 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 ^[e]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 ^[d]disciples that she had seen the Lord, and *that* He had spoken these things to her.