

10/21/18

### The Woman Mary Magdalene

The Bible tells us God made the woman for the man, not the man for the woman. Gen. 2:18; 1Cor. 11:9

1. She was to help the man in such a way that she would complete him in life.
  2. It should be no surprise then that some of the most faithful individuals to Jesus throughout His ministry were women!
- \* One of these was Mary Magdalene who had been touched by the Lord's gracious power, resulting in her radical devotedness to Jesus!

So lets look at her under three headings.

- I. The woman called Mary Magdalene.
- II. The wayward condition of Mary Magdalene.
- III. The loving commitment of Mary Magdalene.

#### **I. The woman called Mary Magdalene.**

##### **A. The name of Mary.**

1. The name Mary is of Hebrew origin.
  - a. The name Mary or Mariam, "Maria", means "rebelliousness or obstinacy".
  - b. The name Mary is a very common name in the Bible
  - c. There are no less than six in the New Testament.

- 1) Mary, the mother of Jesus. Matt. 13:55
- 2) Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha. Lk. 10:38-42
- 3) Mary, the wife of Cleophas. Jn. 19:25
- 4) Mary, the mother of James the younger or less and Joses. Mk. 15:40
- 5) Mary, the mother of John Mark, a sister of Barnabas. Acts 12:12
- 6) Mary, a Roman Christian who is greeted by Paul. Rom. 16:6

##### **2. The family of Mary.**

- a. The parental genealogy of Mary is not given to us.
- b. This is not uncommon in the Scriptures.
- c. The only family that Mary is identified with is the family of Godm the focus of Mary's relationship is a spiritual one.
- d. No brothers or sisters are mentions.
- e. No close family ties.

##### **B. The name of Mary is identified by her place of residence.**

1. Mary is simply known as Mary of Magdalene.
  - a. The phrase appears twelve times. Matt. 27:56, 61; 28:1; Mk. 15:47; 16:1, 9; Lk. 8:2; 24:10; Jn. 20:1, 18
  - b. The word Magdalene is of Aramaic origin and it means "a tower".
2. The city of Magdala is mentioned once in Matthew's gospel. Matt. 15:39

- a. Jesus just fed four-thousand, besides women and children on a mountain at the Sea of Galilee, “And He sent away the multitude, got into the boat and came to the region of Magdala.”
  - b. Magdala is located on the western shore of the Lake of Galilee, about three miles or five kilometers south of Tiberias, on the south end of the plain of Gannesaret.
  - c. Magdala was also called by the Greek name Tarichaea.
3. The city was important for several things.
- a. It was important in agriculture.
  - b. It was important for fishing and curing.
  - c. It was important for shipbuilding.
  - d. It was important as a trading center.
  - e. It was a city of considerable wealth.
4. The cities population was predominately Gentile.
- a. There was a hippodrome where they raced chariots. Jews War II.xxi.3
  - b. The city had a bad reputation regarding licentiousness.
  - c. The Rabbis in fact later attributed the fall of the city to their licentiousness. Mid-rash on Lamentations II.2.

### **Illustration**

Man is forever thinking himself to be of such great value and importance that he is forever comparing himself to others. Yet I find it comical of God that he

made man of the most common substance “dirt”, the dust of the ground. It has been estimated that the chemical contents, the inorganic compounds of a 150 pound man was worth.

- a. In the 1930’s....98 cents.
- b. In the 1960’s ..\$3.50.
- c. In the 1970’s...\$5.60
  - \* Taking the ratio of increased value between the decade of the 60’s and 70’s, 1.6 or 60%, man is still not as valuable as he thinks!
- d. In the 2000’s...\$22.94

### **Application**

1. Every person is common in terms of their sinfulness and weakness.
- a. Each of us has a sin nature, no exception. Eph. 2:1-2
  - b. Each of us are in rebellion against God, with no capacity to submit to God. Rom. 8:7
  - c. Each of us has a spiritual void God has placed purposely in order for Him to fill. Rom. 8:20
2. Every person is a descendent of Adam, this is his genealogy.
- a. The first Adam sinned against God. Gen. 3
  - b. The first Adam had children in his own likeness after his own fallen, no longer in the likeness and image of God before the fall. Gen. 5:3
  - c. The first Adam through sin introduced death to all the human race. Rom. 5:12
3. Many people that come to Jesus for salvation come from a life of debauchery and ungodliness, some from

the worst part of town and do so because they by the grace of God have seen themselves as they are, in need of salvation.

- a. Jesus turns no person away and is not willing that any should perish but come to repentance. 2Pet. 3:9
- b. Jesus is able to forgive all manner of sin, except a continual rejection till death, blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. Mk. 3:29
- c. Paul tells the Romans that whosoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Rom. 10:13

***This was the woman called Mary Magdalene!***

## **II. The wayward condition of Mary Magdalene.**

- A. Mary Madalene was not a prostitute. Lk. 7:36-50
  1. The identification of Mary Magdalene as a prostitute is a teaching and tradition that has been accepted by the Western Church, while rejected by the Eastern Church.
    - \* Every time the Roman Catholic church portrays Mary Magdalene it is as a prostitute, as well as in movies!
  2. The confusion is placing her with the dinner invitation Jesus went to at the house of Simon the Pharisee. vs. 36
  3. The woman of the city, a nameless prostitute, who knew Jesus sat at the table

and she came to worship Him with a box of fragrant oil. vs. 37

4. The woman washed the feet of Jesus with her tears, dried them with her hair and kissing His feet, she anointed them with the fragrant oil. vs. 38
5. The Pharisee speaking to himself that if Jesus were a prophet, He would know what manner of woman she was touching Him, a sinner. vs. 39
6. The Lord reading his heart, proceeded to give a parable to Simon about two debtors, asking which would love his master more if forgiven the debt, to which he responded, “The one whom he forgave more”, Jesus said, “You have rightly judged. vs. 40-43
7. The Lord first rebuked Simon pointing out that he had not offered to wash His feet and anoint his head with oil, when He entered his house but this woman had washed His feet with her tears, not ceased to kiss them since He entered and anointed His feet with the fragrant oil. vs. 44-46
  - a. Jesus said, “Do you see this woman?” Lk. 7:44b
  - b. Why? Because Simon merely saw a whore, not a repentance sinner!
8. Jesus then told Simon that because her sins were many but forgiven, therefore she loved much and told her to go in peace. vs. 47-50

- B.** Mary Magdalene was not the Mary who anointed the Lord's feet. Jn. 12:1-8
1. The place of the anointing of the feet of Jesus was Bethany where Lazarus had been raised from the dead. vs. 1  
\* But the house was that of Simon the leper. Matt. 26:2, 6; Mk. 14:1, 3
  2. The dinner was in honor of Jesus, but Lazarus was sitting the guest of honor, sitting with Jesus. vs. 2
  3. Mary the sister of Martha and Lazarus took costly spikenard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped them with her hair, filling the entire house with the fragrance. vs. 3
  4. The objection came from Judas Iscariot, declaring that it could of been sold for 300 danarii, a years wages, and given to the poor. vs. 4-5
  5. The apostle John tells us that Judas did not objected because he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, being the treasurer, he stole from the box. vs. 6
  6. The Lord Jesus rebuked Judas mildly by declaring to leave her alone, for she had anointed Him for His burial and that the poor they had with them always but He was here for short time. vs. 7-8

**C.** Mary Magdalene was possessed by seven demons.

1. Mark and Luke both give us this description of Mary Magdalene.
  - a. Mark tells us Jesus had cast these seven demons out of Mary Magdalene. Mk 16:9
  - b. Luke tells us Mary Magdalene had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities. Lk. 8:2
    - 1) The word infirmities "asthenia" is used for weaknesses, sickness or decease.
    - 2) The same word is used in the fulfillment of Isaiah's that Jesus took on Himself our infirmities. Matt. 8:17
    - 3) When Jesus saw the people come running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Mk. 9:25
  - c. The danger is that some people may teach that all physical illness or impairment are of Satan or demon possession, categorically.
    - 1) This is not taught in Scripture.
    - 2) There are some instances but they are declared to be so, as in Mark.
    - 3) The fall has resulted in the introduction of decease, abnormality and handicaps, due to heredity, chromosome abnormality and aging.

2. The Scriptures do not provide for us any details about Mary Magdalene's demon possession.
  - a. We are not told how she became involved with the occult.
  - b. We are not told, if these infirmities were related to the possession.
  - c. We are not told how and when she came to Jesus.
  - d. We are not told the manifestation of her possession.
  - e. We are only told that she was possessed by seven demons and that Jesus cast them out.

### Illustration

Just to be tender, just to be true,  
 Just to be loving, just living anew;  
 Just to be holy, just to be clean,  
 Just trusting my Saviour, on Him to lean.

Just to be steady, just to be free,  
 Just to be ready His power to see;  
 Just to be happy, just to be right,  
 Just to be joyful, walking in light,

Just to be winning souls that are lost,  
 Just telling of Jesus who paid the cost;  
 Just to be serving, just to be real;  
 Just leading the helpless His grace to feel.

Just to be waiting Jesus from Heaven,  
 Just to be having His victory giv'n;  
 Just to be kind, wrongs to forget,  
 Victorious prayer, none will regret.

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### Application

1. Perhaps you may be a woman who in her youth or otherwise has lived a very immoral life, even prostitution and you think Jesus can not forgive you or cleanse you?
  - a. Remember how differently Jesus dealt with the woman at Simon's house, lovingly forgiving her as well as the woman caught in the very act of adultery. Lk. 7:36-50; Jn. 8:1-12
  - b. When a person is in Christ Jesus, old things are passed away and all things become new. 2Cor. 5:17
  - c. God will bless you with a godly man who will love you, as you are honorable and truthful with him alone about your past and if not, that is the time to find out, before not after marriage!  
 \* What God has cleanse we are not to call common! Acts 10:15b
2. Perhaps you are a woman who has sat at Jesus feet and worshipped Him, being moral and obedient to Him!
  - a. There was still the need of repentance for salvation, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Rom. 3:23

- b. The sin of self-righteousness, is self-deception and can result in being lost forever, for unless our righteousness, exceed that of the Pharisees, we will in no way enter the kingdom of heaven, said Jesus. Matt. 5:20

3. Perhaps you have dealt with familiar spirits in the world or even possession, today there is a great interest and growing involvement with demons and familiar spirits, even as the New Age movement seeks them.

- a. Know that God condemns all seeking of necromancers, mediums, one who conjures spells, divination, sorcery, soothsayers, witchcraft, prognosticators, astrologers or familiar spirits, etc. Deut. 18:11; 2Kings 21:6; 2Chron. 33:6
- b. Know that Jesus is greater than he that is in the world. 1Jn. 4:4
- c. Know that if you open you heart to Jesus, He will cast out any demon in you and He gives some specifics regarding possession to the religious leaders as they are accusing Him of casting out demons by the prince of Beelzebub. Lk. 11:24-24
  - 1) “When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, `I will return to my house from which I came.” vs. 24
  - 2) “And when he comes, he finds it swept and put in order.” vs. 25

- 3) “Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first.” vs. 26

***This was the wayward condition of Mary Magdalene!***

### **III. The loving commitment of Mary Magdalene.**

- A. Mary Magdalene was a giver as a disciple of Jesus and the ministry. Lk. 8:1-3
  - 1. “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.” vs. 1
    - a. The preaching was for the reconciliation of man with God.
    - b. The preaching was that the kingdom of God was present.
  - 2. “And certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities--Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.” vs. 2
    - a. The ministry of these woman was to meet the needs of the apostles and Jesus.

- b. The reference to their substance means of their possessions and finances.

**B.** Mary Magdalene was committed as a disciple of Jesus to His very death on the cross.

1. Mary was one of several women. Matt. 27:55-56
2. Mary Magdalene was present when Jesus committed His mother to John and she to him. Jn. 19:25
3. Mary Magdalene and the other women witnessed the death of Jesus as they stood afar off. Mk. 15:40-41
4. Mary Magdalene was so thankful for her deliverance and salvation by Jesus, causing her to be a courageous, caring and faithful servant!

**C.** Mary Magdalene was the first to the tomb.

1. Matthew tells us, “Mary Magdalene was sitting opposite the tomb as well as the other Mary after Joseph of Armathea wrapped the body of Jesus up and return after the Sabbath.” Matt. 27:61; 28:1
2. Mark and Luke both tell us the Mary Magdalene Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, that they might come an anoint Him. Mk. 16:1; Lk. 23:55-24:1
3. John is the only one who tells us that it was Mary Magdalene who first went to the tomb early, while it was still dark. Jn. 20:1

- a. When people are constantly late to serve, they demonstrate it is not a priority of love.
- b. When people who serve are only interested in how fast they can leave, they give themselves away, serving out of duty.

**D.** Mary Magdalene was sent by the angel to report the resurrection to the disciples. Lk. 24:1-11

1. Mary Magdalene and the other women found the stone rolled away, which they had been worrying about. vs. 1-2  
\* The angel rolled away the stone. Matt. 28:2
2. They entered into the tomb and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. vs. 3
3. They became perplexed and two men in shinning garments told them not to be afraid and asked them why they were seeking the living among the dead? vs. 4-5
4. Then they heard the words, “He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, “saying, ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and b crucified, and the third day rise again’”. vs. 6-7  
\* Matt. 28:4-8
5. “Then they remembered His words, returning and telling the eleven the message

but it seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.” vs. 8-11

\* Matthew tells us that Jesus appeared to them as they were on their way to tell the disciples. Matt. 28:9-10

6. “But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen clothes lying by themselves and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.” vs. 12

E. Mary Magdalene had a personal appearance of Jesus. Jn. 20:11-18

1. Mary Magdalene was asked by the angel why she was weeping, to which she responded that they had taken away her Lord and did not know where she was. vs. 13  
\* Mark tells us that Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene. Mk. 16:9
2. “Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. 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.” vs. 14-15
3. Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” (which is to say,

Teacher). 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.’” vs. 16-17

4. Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her. vs. 18

#### **Illustration**

David and Robert McCheyne were Scottish brothers both had brilliant minds. There the resemblance ended.

David, the older, was quiet and studious. He spent most of his leisure time at home helping with family chores. David was also a devoted Christian, too much so in the opinion of Robert.

Once Robert came home from an evening of reveling and found David kneeling in prayer, “I heard you call my name, Dave,” he sneered. “Am I really that bad?”

The sensitive David tried to explain, “We’re all sinners who need to trust in Christ.” Robert shrugged and excused himself from the conversation.

The door of opportunity swung wide for Robert when he enrolled in the University of Edinburgh. His talents for languages, drawing, music, and poetry brought him many awards. His professors predicted greater fame ahead.

Back home David languished in illness. But he continued to pray for Robert until death silenced his lips.

And then Robert became a Christian. In the years ahead Robert's star steadily rose until he became the most beloved Presbyterian minister in Scotland and the British Isles. At twenty-three he became pastor of the 4, 000-member St. Peter's Church of Dundee.

His ministry lasted only seven years, from 1836-1843. He became known as "the holiest man in Scotland." His church was crowded hours ahead of time by people anxious to hear explain the Scriptures.

A painful consumptive cough tortured his body during the last months of his life. Throughout his illness, and even in his dying delirium, he talked about the One whom his brother had helped him to love.

**#3211**

### Application

1. The servants who are like Mary Magdalene, are motivated in their service by the love of Jesus that forgave them.

- a. For love is as strong as death, Jealousy as cruel as the grave; Its flames are flames of fire, A most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, Nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for love All the wealth of his house, It would be utterly despised." Song Sol. 8:6-7

- b. Love bears all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.. 1Cor. 13:7-8a
  - c. My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. 1Jn. 3:18
  - d. And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins. 1Pet. 4:8
2. Oh that the number of Mary Magdalene's increase, who stand behind the church financially.
- a. Giving to God what belongs to God was the words of Jesus, even as we pay to Caesar his due. Matt. 22:21
  - b. Giving is to be of what one has, not of what one does not have. 1Cor. 8:12
  - c. Giving is to be without any ulterior motive or grudgingly. 2Cor. 9:5
  - d. Giving is to be hilariously from the heart. 2Cor. 9:7
3. The commitment of Mary Magdalene's is needed in the church today.
- a. There is too much lip service, instead of word and deed. Col. 3:17
  - b. There is too much conditional service.
  - c. There is too much cheap service, that does not cost anything. 1Chron. 21:24
  - d. There is too much respect of person service, with eyes service. Eph. 6:6; Col. 3:22
    - \* There is the danger of only being interested and involved in fellowship, for the sake of fellowship without serving!

- e. There is to be a readiness by preparation to deliver the message of the gospel to others. 1Pet. 3:15
  - 1) The cross of Christ, His death for the sins of the world.
  - 2) The resurrection of Jesus from the dead.
  - 3) The ascension of Jesus to the right hand of the Father.
- 4. The servants of God experience Jesus as He reveals Himself through the Scriptures, according to the Scriptures.
  - a. The Holy Spirit is the One who reveals Jesus, speaks and glorifies only Jesus. Jn. 14:13-14
  - b. The Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts to direct and guide us into His will and purposes of God. 1Cor. 2:9-16
  - c. The Holy Spirit is always one with the word, not experiences that are contrary or in addition to the Scriptures, therefore we are to examine everything. Acts 17:11
    - 1) Jesus said we are to learn from Him and He will give us rest for our souls! Matt. 11:28-30
    - 2) The soul deals with the intellect, emotions and will and if God's word does not guide our minds, our emotions will, and then we won't be doing God's will but only our own!
    - 3) We are saved to do the will of God from the heart. Eph. 6:6

***This was the loving commitment of Mary Magdalene!***

**Conclusion**

Mary Magdalene had been touched by the Lord's gracious power, resulting in her radical devotedness to Jesus and evident by these three points.

- I.** The woman called Mary Magdalene!
- II.** The wayward condition of Mary Magdalene!
- III.** The loving commitment of Mary Magdalene!