

Mary Magdalene - Lesson Two

In our generation people are identified in a variety of ways: some by their vocation, some by their disposition, and others by their devotion. This week we are going to study a woman known for her love and devotion to Jesus Christ. If nothing else, Mary Magdalene reminds us that no matter what our past is...in Christ there is a new beginning! Beloved, when you truly contemplate all that has been done on your behalf, as a believer, the only reasonable response...is that of Mary-- absolute adoration.



The Pencil Sketch

She is one of the best known and least understood names in Scripture. There has been much speculation about this woman: everything from best-selling books to dramatic, big-budget movies. Let's look at what God writes about Mary Magdalene.

1. Quietly and prayerfully read the account of Mary from sketches provided by the four gospel writers. As you do, jot down what you learn about her life.

John 19:25; John 20:1-18	
Luke 8:1-3; Luke 23:49, 55-56; Luke 24:1-11	
Mark 15:40-41, 47; Mark 16:1-11	
Matthew 27:55-56, 61; Matthew 28:1-10	

2. From what you have read, what would you consider her greatest strength?
 - a. Her deepest struggle?
 - b. Her daring courage?
 - c. Her tenacious love?

A Desperate Need

Before Mary met Jesus, she lived a desperate life filled with evil influence, until one day when divine grace and deliverance poured into her life...changing her forever.

3. Christ had delivered Mary Magdalene from demon possession, and instantly she had been eternally set free. Is it any wonder she followed Him! Her life was not just reformed, but transformed. As believers we have all experienced a life-changing event. Write out 2 Corinthians 5:17 here:

4. As you consider your "before and after" picture as a Christian, what are some of the transformations you have experienced?

- a. In your own words, paraphrase 2 Corinthians 5:17 as it applies to YOU! Write a note of praise to Him who translated you out of darkness into His marvelous light! (1Peter 2:9)



Personally Tailored

As a spiritual exercise, try to read through Romans 5:1-10 every day this week. Meditate on a different aspect of the wondrous gift we have been given in Jesus Christ.

*And do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your
mind, that you may prove what is that
good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
Romans 12:2*



Shades of Character

A Devoted Life

After her deliverance, she joined the close circle of disciples that followed and ministered to Christ. Her life was now His! The transformation was not merely verbal...it was tangible and material.

5. When we consider the role of women in Jesus' ministry, it becomes apparent that He did not hold to the rabbinical teachings of the day. Why do you think Christ allowed women to accompany Him?
 - a. What do you think Jesus' critics said about the women who traveled with them?

6. In Luke 8:2-3, in what specific ways do you think these women might have ministered to Jesus and the others?
 - a. In what ways can you show love and gratitude to the Savior for all He has done for you?



Personally Tailored

The godly women who served Jesus and the disciples probably served each other as well, both spiritually and physically. How does this example of "sisters in Christ" speak to you? How can the wise counsel of Christian women influence and impact your life and the lives of your family and loved ones?

A Determined Courage

7. We read in all four gospels that Mary was a witness of Jesus' crucifixion – that she stayed close until the very end.
 - a. Why do you think she remained during this painful and risky event?

 - b. What do you think she must have been feeling during this time?

8. John 19:25 explains how Mary Magdalene stood beside the cross with Jesus' mother, Mary. Read Isaiah 52:13-53:10 and name some of the things she would have witnessed at the cross.
 - a. How would that affect you if you were standing there?

a. What caused the women to forget Jesus' words?

12. In John 20:1-18, why do you think Mary did not recognize the Lord when she first encountered Him?

a. What was it that made her realize it was He?

b. How does John 10:3-5 explain this?

c. Do you easily recognize your Lord's voice?

d. What are some things that can dull His voice in your life?

13. Once Mary recognized Jesus and saw that He was alive, her sorrow turned to joy. What did she do next?

14. In Matthew 28:9-10, Jesus gives Mary and the other women words of reassurance, of instruction and promise. In what way do we see that same encouragement and instruction given today? (Matthew 28: 19-20)

- a. Is the Lord leading you to share your faith with someone in your life now--maybe a neighbor, a co-worker, family member? How can you prepare to speak to this person about your faith?

15. What kind of legacy does Mary Magdalene leave for us as a generation of women devoted to Jesus Christ?

- a. Is there one prominent lesson you can apply from her today? If so, what is it?

16. Let's close this lesson with a time of prayer...

Lord, thank you for your unconditional love for me! May I live in the truth that "I am my Beloved's, and my Beloved is mine!" (Song of Solomon 6:3) May I walk in the honor of bearing Your Name and may my oneness with You grow until I behold You face to face!

You are my everlasting Beloved!

