

## Life lessons from Mary Magdalene

Various Scriptures

*“After Jesus rose from the dead early on Sunday morning, the first person who saw Him was Mary Magdalene, the woman from whom He had cast out seven demons.”*

*-Mark 16:9*

As you reflect on your life and all that God has done for you, how far are you willing to go in expressing your gratitude in return? Would you give your all in pursuing a relationship with the Lord even if it goes against a cancel culture? Someone once said, “In life you have 3 choices, give up, give in, or give it your all.” In our study today, Mary Magdalene, not only shows us how to live with an attitude of gratitude, but she also demonstrates the reason and reward of giving our all to Jesus Christ.

### Did you know?

- \*Mary Magdalene is also known as Mary of \_\_\_\_\_
- \*She was believed to have been born in Magdala, Jerusalem located on the southwest coast of the Sea of Galilee.
- \*She experienced a dramatic healing when Jesus caused \_\_\_\_\_ demons came out of her.
- \*She was a key witness to the life, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.
- \*Some writers suggest she is the women who Jesus saves from stoning (John 8:1-11) and the sinful women who wiped Jesus feet (Luke 7:36-50) at Simon the Pharisee’s house but there is no scriptural evidence to support these claims.
- \*She was also depicted in the fiction novel “The DaVinci Code” as the wife of Jesus, but there is no scriptural evidence whatsoever to support this either.
- \*Her story is told Matthew 27-28; Mark 15-16; Luke 8:1-3; 23-24 and John 19-20

### What’s the Historical Context?

When we first encounter Mary Magdalene in Luke 8:1-3, it was nearing the height of Jesus’ earthly ministry. Luke, a non-Jew, also records Jesus having a special sensitivity towards “outsiders” with whom He came in touch with. He also shows Jesus having a special care for women in the midst of a Jewish culture and society that treated women as second class citizens. As you consider this, why do you think it was important for Luke’s original audience of Theophilus, the Gentiles, and us today to know?

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### Notice Jesus’ special care for women throughout the Gospels:

- ✓ Samaritan women at the well: John 4:1-26
- ✓ Widows son raised from the dead: Luke 7:11-17
- ✓ Sinful women who anoints Jesus’ feet: Luke 7:36-50
- ✓ The women caught in adultery: John 8:1-11
- ✓ Martha and Mary of Bethany: Luke 10:38-42
- ✓ Healing of a crippled women: Luke 13:10-17
- ✓ The daughter of a Gentile women: Mark 7:24-30

- ✓ The women who were weeping while He carried His cross: Luke 23:27-31
- ✓ His mother while He was on the cross: John 19:26-27

### **Mary Magdalene's Miracle: Luke 8:1-3**

In this brief introduction of Mary Magdalene we read in verse 2 that 7 demons had come out of her.

By definition demons are identified in scripture as \_\_\_\_\_ angels who joined Satan in his rebellion. They follow Satan, doing \_\_\_\_\_ and wreaking havoc. They have limited power and like Satan are already defeated. Colossians 2:15

Some common terms used in the New Testament to describe demon possession are "evil spirit", "deceitful spirits", and \_\_\_\_\_ spirits. Demonic possession has various manifestations such as muteness (Luke 11:14), deafness (Mark 9:25), blindness (Matthew 12:22), convulsions (Mark 9:26), superhuman strength (Mark 5:4), and self destructive behaviour (Matthew 17:15). Some demons can be idols that men worship as well. 1 Corinthians 10:20-22

Although we don't know what kind of demons she had, we read that Jesus cast all of them out of her setting her free from Satan's \_\_\_\_\_ and allowing her to serve Him fully. **Can you identify some things that Satan may be using to wreak havoc in your life? What are going to do about it?**

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Be encouraged to fast and pray, petition the Lord in Jesus' name to deliver you from evil. Matthew 17:21

### **Mary Magdalene's Ministry: Luke 8:3; Matthew 27:55;61; 28:1; Mark 15:40-41;47; 16:1; Luke 23:49;56; 24:1; John 19:25; 20:1-2**

After Jesus healed Mary, casting out the demons that were in her, verse 3 says she along with Joanna, Herod's steward, Susanna and other women began providing for them from their substance.

To put it another way, whatever occupation they had, they would use their resources to help Jesus and His disciples. Their ministry was to \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus for the next 2-3 years. Matthew 27:55

In looking at how ministry is done today, why do you think so many people have problems serving one another?

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Fast forward to the trial, crucifixion and death of Jesus, the next time we see Mary Magdalene is with Mary (mother of Jesus) and Joses (Mother of the son's of Zebedee) watching and waiting to see where they would bury Jesus. Even in His death they

continued to minister by preparing spices and fragrant oils for His body, but because of the Sabbath day they had to wait and come early on Sunday to finish the work.

**As we consider their dedication, how might you use whatever talents/gifts that God has blessed you with to minister to others?**

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**Mary Magdalene's Message: Matthew 28:5-10; Mark 16:5-11; Luke 24:8-11;22-23; John 20:11-18**

On her way back to the tomb early Sunday morning to prepare Jesus' body for burial, Mary Magdalene witnessed another the miracle in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ. Right after the angel told them what had happened, the angel then told her to \_\_\_\_\_ quickly and \_\_\_\_\_ His disciples that He is risen from the dead and they will see Him again in Galilee.

**Different perspectives from the Gospels:**

Matthew and John report while Mary Magdalene was running back to tell the disciples all of a sudden Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ before her... Matthew 28:9-10; John 20:16-18

Mark and Luke testify when Mary Magdalene told the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead they did not \_\_\_\_\_ .... Mark 16:11; Luke 24:10-11

Can you imagine after all these women had seen and went through to hear some of the disciples say they didn't believe? Through it all she told them with joy.

**As you reflect on all that God has done for you, how does this help you to be a stronger witness for the Lord today?**

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**After looking at all four Gospel accounts of Mary Magdalene's existence and testimony at the end of Jesus' life, what do you think is the significance of all of the apostles being in agreement about what happened?**

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**“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing you may have life in His name.” -John20:31**