

Mary Magdalene

"After the Resurrection"



"Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils."

Mark 16:9 KJV

"On Sabbath morning, I, along with the other Mary, went to the tomb while it was still dark. There had been a great earthquake and the stone had rolled away. There was an angel sitting on the rock who had descended from heaven. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow.

"The guards who had been placed there were like dead men. They had been sent to keep people from stealing the body of Jesus. We were afraid. I said *'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!'* I was afraid the Roman authorities had taken him because they were so afraid of him. I didn't want them to hurt his body. I don't know anything to say except we were afraid for the worst.

"Then the angel spoke to us and said *'Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen*

from the dead, and behold he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.'

"As we ran we met the disciples and told them what we had seen. Peter always knew what we should do next. Peter started running for the tomb along with John. John reached the tomb first and he looked in but did not go in. But Peter went right in and saw the strips of linen lying there as well as the cloth they had wrapped around the head of Christ when they applied the oils to his body after he had been taken from the cross to the tomb.

"Finally John got up enough nerve to go in and they both believed that he truly had risen from the grave. After staying for a short while they went back to Galilee. There seemed to be nothing they could do at that point.

"I stayed outside the tomb and cried. Jesus had done so much for me. I just wanted to be as near to him as I could be. I looked into the tomb again and there were two angels seated where Jesus' body had been. They talked with me and asked me why I was crying. I said *'They have taken my Lord away and I don't know where they have put him.'* As I turned I saw another person

*"Only I can change my life.
No one can do it for me."*

Carol Burnett



behind me. I thought ok, this guy must be the gardener, he will know where they have taken the body. I told him that if he would tell me where he was I would go and get him. Then the man said *'Mary'*.

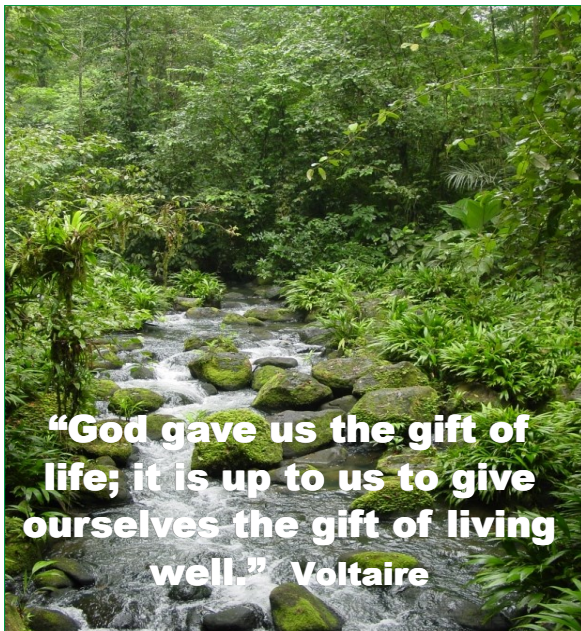
"I turned and realized it was Jesus standing right in front of me and cried out *'Teacher.'* The dimness from my eyes was lifted as I saw our risen Lord standing beside me. Tears returned to my eyes, but this time they were joyful tears. As I approached him he told me *'Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'*

"I did as Jesus had asked me to do and went to find the disciples. I told them *'I have seen the Lord!'* The disciples also were shy, uncertain and confused when I told them. They couldn't believe me. We had such great news. None of us would ever be the same

again. But what were we to do next. If we told anyone they would try to find him and make him suffer more. If we told anyone they would not believe us. No one had been known to roll away the huge stone that had been placed in front of the tomb and arisen from the dead. Who would believe I had seen angels and they talked to me?

"I had a terrible reputation before I knew Jesus as my Savior. I realized that, but people still cast aspersions at me as I walked down the street sometimes. The disciples believed me, but we could only stay in hiding and wait to see what would happen when everything settled down. We knew Jesus was alive, but where was he?

"Then he came to us and stayed with us for many days. He told us what we would face and he told us that he was leaving us, but he would be with us. This all seemed like a paradox. We were so blessed."



Alive (Mary Magdalene)

"What kind of love

Is writing my story till the end

With mercy's pen?

Only you

What kind of king

Would choose to wear a crown

That bleeds and scars

To win my heart

What kind of love

Tells me I'm the reason He can't stay

Inside the grave

You, is it You?

Standing here before my eyes

Every part of my heart cries

I am his because he is

Emmanuel, the promised king

The baby who made angels sing

Son of man who walked with us

Healing, breathing in our dust

The author of all history

The answer to all mysteries

The lamb of God who rolled away

The stone in front of every grave."

Lyrics by Natalie Grant, singer-songwriter of contemporary Christian music.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, You have told us that You are always with us. In times of loss, we sometimes forget that You are still there. When we are frightened, we know in our hearts that You are there. Help us to be strong like Mary Magdalene and the disciples and be willing to do all that we can to help others know about You by our actions as well as our words. Amen

How are we like Mary Magdalene?

How can we be a witness to others? Have we sinned and wondered if we were worthy of God's forgiveness?

How can we love someone who is a spirit, who has the power to create anything He wants? He has no pains, no needs that we can fulfill?

Do we ever turn others away by treating them like they are not good enough to be a part of our church?

Do we know how to love Christ and show that love to others?

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