

Mary Magdalene

“Lent, A Monologue”



“It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.” Luke 24:10-11.

“I had been filled with what they called evil demons; I knew no good. I saw people throng around this gentle man who was speaking about a new heaven where all would be right; I wanted to know more. The more I listened to him, the more I realized that he was telling the truth. He was really not like anyone else I had ever seen. And believe me, I knew many people. I had used everyone I could just as

they used me. One day I asked him to cast the evil spirits out of my body as he had done for others. That day I knew that he was the Son of God. He was the Messiah, the only one that could heal me.

“I continued to follow as many others did. We wanted to hear more. We all wanted to know as much as possible about this man who was so wonderful, who told us how we too could become a part of his Heavenly Kingdom. He healed people; he removed evil spirits. He made the lame to walk; he made the blind to see.

“When the authorities seized him and wanted to put him to death, we were all devastated. There was nothing we could do. He had told the disciples this would happen. They didn’t understand any more than the rest of us. He had taught us to be gentle, to forgive, as He had forgiven us.

“As I stood at the foot of the cross with the other people who also loved Jesus, I heard one of the centurions admit that he felt this man was truly the Son of God, but he also could do nothing to prevent what was happening. There were many of us there, both men and women.

“When He died, they cut the body down. A man named Joseph asked to have Christ’s body put into his own tomb. He and Nicodemus anointed the body with the proper oils, put Him in linen clothes, and laid Him in a tomb that had been recently hewn from the rock for Joseph. I along with a couple other women stood off and watched

them as they took care of His body and then sealed the tomb.

“On Sabbath morning, I, along with the other Mary, went to the tomb. There had been a great earthquake and the stone had rolled away. We were afraid. As we cried an angel told us not to be afraid. He told us that Jesus had risen from the dead. What a joy. Then I heard that familiar voice say ‘Mary’. 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. Jesus told us to not be afraid and to go and tell His disciples that He would see them in Galilee. The disciples also were shy, uncertain and confused when I told them. We had such great news. None of us would ever be the same again.

“For several days following the Resurrection, Christ appeared to the disciples and to many of us. He told us that He was leaving this earth, but He would return and take us to be with Him forever. We were truly blessed. Are you?”

“We had an obligation to tell others about Christ and how much He had done for us and what He could offer them. He promised He would always be with us. We traveled and spread the Good News as He had commanded us to do.”

“Jesus said to her, ‘Mary.’ She turned and said to him in Aramaic, ‘Rabboni!’ Jesus said to her, ‘Do not cling to me, but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.’”

John 20:16-18

There is a song sung by Mary Magdalene in *Jesus Christ Superstar* a rock opera by Andrew Lloyd Webber, with lyrics by Tim Rice. These are some of the words.

“I don’t know how to Love Him”

*“I don't know how to love him. What to do, how to move him.
I've been changed, yes really changed In these past few days
When I've seen myself I seem like someone else.
I don't know how to take this, I don't see why he moves me
He's a man, he's just a man
Don't you think it's rather funny I should be in this position?
I'm the one who's always been so calm so cool
No lover's fool. Running every show. He scares me so.
I never thought I'd come to this. What's it all about?”*

Mary Magdalene is a very interesting person in the Bible and the stories about her are many and many different interpretations. This is also true of many women today who have taken a stand for what they think is correct. She is usually viewed as a prostitute or a woman filled with demons before she met Christ, but we have no proof of that because there were so many women named Mary in the New Testament. Perhaps that was just a common name or perhaps it is connected to Mary being the name of the mother of Christ. We have no record of Mary’s parentage, her marital status or her age. That she was free to follow Jesus in His journey suggests that she had no home obligations. Much has been said about her, but we have very little that is definite.

One movie that was out quite a few years ago had her in love with Christ in a worldly way, but most sources seem to think she was just a very loyal follower of Christ and His preaching because He had helped her.

We could also assume she had some financial background and she came from a region that had some industry, but this is all speculation. Many times we add to the Scripture what we think is there because we have heard it through the years or it has become tradition. This is often true about Mary also. Luke tells us:

“Afterward [Jesus] journeyed from one town and village to another, preaching and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. Accompanying him were the Twelve and some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their resources.” Luke 8:1-3

Why is she so important? She was just one woman who followed Christ, but she is representative of women who had a strong belief. In most writings in the Bible, and particularly in the parables, the people mentioned are equally divided between males and females. Regardless of her status among society there are many people like her in the world today.

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” Matthew 28:19

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

1. How are we like Mary Magdalene? How can we be a witness to others?
2. Is it right for us to seek to know the truth even though we may not feel we are good enough to be in the places where God’s word is taught because we do not have the right clothes or know the right people?
3. Do we ever turn others away by treating them like they are not good enough to be a part of our church?
4. Do we know how to love Christ and show that love to others?
5. Do we have the courage and humility to approach God and ask for his grace?

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“The story of Mary Magdalene reminds us all of a fundamental truth: a disciple of Christ is one who in the experience of human weakness has had the humility to ask for his help, has been healed by him and has set out following closely after him, becoming a witness of the power of his merciful love that is stronger than sin and death.”
Pope Benedict XVI