

“Lessons We Can Learn From Mary Magdalene”

Delivered by Pastor Ed Terry 04 01 18 Easter Son Rise Service

Luke 8: 1 – 3; Matthew 27:57 – 65; Mark 16:9 - 11; **John 20: 1- 18 (Sermon)**

Scripture does not tell us very much about Mary Magdalene.

Mary was from the village of Magdala which is in Galilee.

In Luke 8 we read that Mary Magdalene was one of a group of women in the Galilee area who financially provided for Jesus and His disciples. (Luke 8:3)

We also are told that Jesus cast out seven demons from Mary. (Luke 8:2)

We do not know how or why the seven demons entered into Mary or the type of bondage the demons held her in.

The number seven suggest that the demons completely controlled Mary.

But we do know that Jesus drove the seven demons out and Jesus freed Mary from the bondage the demons had previously held Mary in.

After Jesus freed Mary from the demons Mary became a devoted follower of Jesus.

But The Bible does give us some valuable lessons that we need to learn from Mary Magdalene.

First Mary had a genuine desire to be with Jesus.

We said earlier that Mary was one of the women that followed Jesus during His teaching ministry in Galilee.

In the 19th chapter of John we read that Mary Magdalene was present at Jesus’ crucifixion

Matthew tells us that on Friday Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James watched Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea lay Jesus’ dead body in the tomb and that they rolled a great stone in front of the tomb. (Matthew 27: 59 -61)

Then in our lesson from John 20 we read that; ***“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark Mary Magdalene went to the tomb ...”***

Mary was the first one to go to Jesus’ tomb on that first Easter morning.

Then Mary stayed at the empty tomb after Peter and John left the tomb.

God’s word to us today challenges each of us examine ourselves and see if we really have a desire to spend time with Jesus each day.

Is Jesus the first person you talk to when you wake up in the morning and is Jesus the last person you talk to before you go to sleep at night.

Each one of us need to examine ourselves and see if we really have a desire to spend time with Jesus studying our Bibles each day.

Remember John 1:1 tells us; ***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”***

And John 1:14 tells us; ***“The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us”.***

Jesus is The Word.

Do we have the desire to be with Jesus each day in prayer?

You see if we have a real desire to be with Jesus we would get up earlier on every Sunday morning and be in Sunday School every Sunday morning.

Remember Jesus said; ***“For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them”*** (Matthew 18:20)

The truth is some of us have trouble getting to church on time for 11 am for worship on Sunday.

Mary wanted to be with Jesus because she loved Jesus.

Mary showed her love by following Jesus in His ministry in Galilee.

She showed her love for Jesus by financially supporting Jesus’ earthly ministry.

She showed her love for Jesus by being at Jesus’ crucifixion.

Remember John was the only one of the 12 disciples present at Jesus’ crucifixion.

The other disciples were hiding in fear. Mary showed her love for Jesus by staying at the empty tomb.

Mary cried because she thought that someone had removed Jesus’ body from the tomb.

God’s word to us today challenges each one of us to examine our love for Jesus.

Do we show our love for Jesus by the way we live our lives each day?

After Jesus’ death Mary wanted to do what she could for Jesus.

She wanted Jesus to have a proper Jewish burial.

In Mark 16:1 we read; ***“When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?”***

Mary told the person she thought to be the gardener; ***“Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”***

We all need to examine the amount of our time and the percent of our money that we give to support Jesus’ ministry today.

God’s word to us today challenges each of us examine ourselves and see if we really are doing what we can for Jesus each day.

Next there is a challenge to us all as individuals and to us as a church this morning. Jesus commanded Mary Magdalene to go and tell His disciples that He had risen from the dead and that she had met with the risen Lord.

Mary went and did exactly what Jesus had commanded Mary to do.

I think as a church there is the lesson we need to follow.

Mary was a faithful evangelist.

Mary Magdalene brought the news that Jesus was alive to the disciples: ***“I have seen the Lord!”***

Then Mary told them what she had seen and experienced.

As Christians we say that our spiritual eyes have been opened and that that we have met with the risen Christ.

We say Jesus has freed us from sin and death but who are we telling about Jesus?

God has put unsaved people in each of our lives.

Those people will spend eternity in hell unless they ask Jesus to save them.

Isn’t it about time we told the unsaved people God has put in our lives about Jesus?

Isn’t it about time that we love each other and forgive one another?

Are you excited about Jesus rising from the grave?

Are you really excited that Jesus is alive?

Are you excited that Jesus wants to be a part of your daily life?

Isn’t it time that we get serious about our responsibility as one of Jesus’ disciples.

Mary showed her excitement about seeing The Risen Jesus.

Mary was the only one who stayed at the tomb, and she was the only one who saw Jesus on that first Easter morning.

Mary was so excited she could not keep her excitement to herself.

When Jesus called Mary by her name Mary realized that it was Jesus she was seeing and talking to.

Listen to verse 16 again; ***“Mary turned to Him and cried out to Him in Aramaic, “Rabboni” which means “teacher”.***

Notice The Bible says she ***“cried out”***.

This is an emphatic statement, not a question to whom she is speaking.

Why is it that we are excited about sharing the details of a trip we have taken but we timid about sharing the best news in the world, the news of Jesus’ resurrection?

What is more important a wonderful vacation or that Jesus overcoming death once and for all?

What matters more a really good meal or the Son of God coming back to life?

We have witnessed the same event that Mary Magdalene did.

We know that Jesus was raised from the dead.

We know that Jesus loves us, we know that our sins are forgiven, we know we are going to heaven because Jesus rose from the tomb on that first Easter morning.

It is not realistic that we do not share the good news of Jesus with the same joy and excitement that Mary Magdalene did when she said; ***“I have seen The Lord.”***

Mary Magdalene holds a unique place in the history of Jesus.

She was the first one to find the empty tomb on Easter and the only one, in the Gospel of John, to meet Jesus face to face on Easter morning.

We can learn a lot from Mary Magdalene, but especially, we can learn from her persistence in waiting for Jesus, her sincerity in searching for Jesus, and her enthusiasm in telling others about Jesus.

Her witness to us is inspiring.

Though she’s gotten a bad rap throughout the years, Mary Magdalene has a lot to teach us about how to love Jesus; wait on Jesus persistently; search for Jesus sincerely; share the good news of Jesus; and to be excited about sharing her belief in her Risen Lord.

Mary’s devotion to Jesus was driven by her knowledge of what Jesus had freed her from.

Mary knew the reality of life under the powers of darkness and Mary knew the reality of freedom from Satan’s power she experienced in Jesus Christ.

Mary’s gratitude, love for Jesus, and her desire to support Jesus ministry was based on what Jesus had done for her.

Mary knew the desperate state she was in prior to Jesus freeing her from Satan’s power.

Mary appreciated her freedom because she knew exactly what bondage to demons was like.

Mary's devotion to Jesus was directly proportionate to her need.

Maybe you and I need to spend more meditating on the horrors of hell and what life would be without Jesus.

Mary was truly thankful to Jesus for releasing her from sin and death.

You see if you do not know and / or appreciate the desperate spiritual condition you were in before Jesus saved you will never experience a close personal relationship with Jesus.

When you and I accepted Jesus as our Savior, Jesus freed us from the penalty of sin and Jesus saved us from spiritual and eternal death.

Like Mary Magdalene we have been freed from the power that Satan has over us.

Maybe the reason why many Christians are only experiencing a superficial relationship with Jesus is because we really don't know or we have not grasped the wonderful truth of what Jesus has done for us.

We should never forget that Jesus saved us from burning in hell throughout eternity.

We should never forget that Jesus has given us the authority and the power to resist Satan's temptations.

We are free to enjoy the abundant life that God planned for us.

Today as we celebrate The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper we need to remember that before we asked Jesus to be our Savior we were all dead in our trespasses and sins.

We all need to remember that Jesus set us free from the bondage of sin and death.

Jesus offers us abundant life while we are here on earth and Jesus guarantees us life with Him in heaven throughout eternity.

God's word to us today challenges each of us examine ourselves and see if we really appreciate what Jesus has done for us.

And if we are truly thankful for what Jesus has done for us we will spend quality time with Jesus every day.

We will show our love and our gratitude by obeying all of Jesus' commandments.

We will do everything we can to advance The Kingdom of God while we are on earth.

If we are truly thankful for what Jesus has done for us we will be excited about our faith and we will tell other people about our Jesus.

Amen.