

Mary Magdalene

Mary's name probably derives from the Galilean town of Magdala.

Mary's appearance in scripture before the Passion Narratives is confined to Luke 8:2 where we read that she was among the women cured of possession by evil spirits and other infirmities, who accompanied Jesus Christ and His disciples during their evangelistic ministry.

It is **not** possible, at least from the Biblical account, to limit the illness from which Mary was healed to one sphere alone, the physical, mental or moral. Seven demons is specified in **Mark 16:9**.

There is **no** reason to try to identify Mary Magdalene with the “*sinful woman*” of **Luke 7:37-38**. If Luke had known that the Mary of chapter eight was the same person as the sinner of chapter seven, would he not have made the connection explicit?

Mary Magdalene reappears in scripture at the crucifixion, in company of other women who had journeyed with Jesus Christ from Galilee, [John 19:25].

Mary Magdalene was on her way to anoint Jesus Christ's body on the Sunday morning when she discovered the empty tomb and ran to tell Peter and the other disciples, [**John 20:1-2; Matthew 28:1-8; Mark 16:1-9**].

Mary Magdalene was the first to see the risen Jesus Christ.

Mary Magdalene is an example of a heart-warming, thankful person.

Her life had been miraculously freed by Jesus Christ when He drove seven demons out of her.

In every glimpse we have of Mary Magdalene, she is acting out her appreciation for the freedom Jesus Christ had given her.

That freedom allowed Mary to stand under Jesus Christ's cross when all the disciples except for John were hiding in fear.

After Jesus Christ's death, she intended to give His body every respect, [**Mark 16:1-2**].

Like the rest of the disciples, Mary never expected Jesus Christ's bodily resurrection, but she was delighted to discover it, [**Matthew 28:8-10**].

Mary's faith was **not** complicated, but it was direct and genuine.

Mary was more eager to believe and obey than to understand everything.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] “*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.*”

Just as Mary offered herself to serve her Lord, Jesus Christ, we also should out of gratitude for what He has done for us, freeing us from our deserved death penalty because of our sins, [**Romans 6:23**].

Lessons from the life of Mary Magdalene –

All who are obedient to God grow in understanding as He reveals His plan to them, as He did Mary.

Women were and are vital to Jesus Christ's ministry, in ways that men would find difficult to support him.

Jesus Christ relates to women as He created them, as equal reflectors of God's image, [Genesis 1:27].

Like Mary and the disciples it is only when we have a personal encounter with the resurrected Jesus Christ that we can fully devote our lives to Him, and understand fully the reality of His presence in us, [John 20:24-29].