

Series: Making Much of the Master (His Encounters)

A WOMAN CALLED MARY

LUKE 8:1-3

Text:

Introduction:

The Lord's followers have always been a fickle bunch. During the course of His earthly ministry, He was followed vast crowds and at other times, He was followed by just a faithful few.

After Jesus is arrested, only two of His disciples followed Him to the home of the High Priest. They were John and Peter. Peter, we are told, followed Him "afar off", Matt. 26:58. Peter would be the one who also denied Jesus that very night. By the time Jesus arrives at Calvary to be crucified, only one of His disciples, John, is still with Him, John 19:26.

After Jesus dies on the cross, His body is removed and is taken to the tomb of a man by the name of Joseph of Arimathaea, John 19:38-42. As darkness falls on that dark, dark day, all of the Lord's disciples are hiding from fear of the Jews. By the time Jesus had died on the cross, and was buried in the tomb, not a single one of the men He had called was with Him.

Even though the number of the Lord's followers fluctuated from thousands to a handful, there was one woman named Mary Magdalene, who seemed to have followed Him everywhere. She was with Him during His ministry. She also wept at His feet as He died at Calvary. She followed His body to the tomb and sat outside His tomb after He was buried. She was also among the first to return to the tomb following the Sabbath. And, she was the first one to whom He appeared when He arose from the dead.

While others forsook the Lord, she remained faithful to Him! When others ran away, she stayed! What was it that produced this kind of devotion in Mary's life? I think the Bible has the answer to that question!

I think her life has something to say to all of us about humble, consecrated devotion to God.

Note:

1. SHE WAS A DESPERATE WOMAN

Note:

A. The Horror of Her Condition

We are told that Mary was possess by seven devils.

Mary's life would have been horrible! She would have been drawn into vile sin and she would have been driven insane by the demons that controlled her. It has even been suggested that Mary was a prostitute, though no biblical evidence exists to support that notion. What a horrible life!

Note not only The Horror of Her Condition but also:

B. The Hopelessness of Her Condition

As she was possessed by the demons within her, she would have been cut-off from the Temple. She would have been cut-off from all help from decent society. She had nothing to look forward to but a life of sin and insanity, followed by an eternity in Hell. She was living a hopeless life!

Note not only the horror and hopelessness of her condition but also:

C. The Helplessness of Her Condition

Since she was under the control of demonic spirits, she was powerless to change her life. She was trapped and totally helpless in her enslaved and lost condition!

In all this, Mary Magdalene is a perfect picture of every lost person in the world today. While most lost people may not be demon possessed, they are still dead in their sins and are powerless to change their condition!

Note not only that She Was a Desperate Woman but also:

2. SHE WAS A DELIVERED WOMAN

We are not told of the circumstances surrounding Mary's conversion. However, some think she is the woman mentioned in Luke 7:36-50.

It may be!

Regardless, there was no reason whatsoever for Jesus to reach out to a woman like this. Surely there were reputable, decent women who needed the Lord. But, the fact that Jesus would reach into this woman's darkness and bring her into His marvelous light can be attributed to nothing but His amazing grace! In fact, had it not been for pure grace, she would have died and went to Hell. Jesus, however, was not content to

let that happen and He extended love, mercy and grace to Mary and saved her soul.

Note:

A. She Experienced the Lord's Power

When Jesus reached out to this woman and delivered her, she experienced the power of God. She instantly delivered from that which had her bound and then was set free!

B. She Experienced the Lord's Peace

Think of the confusion that must have filled the heart and mind of this poor woman! At least seven demons all talking to her, each trying to control her and have his will carried out by her. Yet, when Jesus touched her and saved her, the turmoil in her soul was forever quieted, because only one voice was speaking within her heart now! Jesus took the pain and turmoil that plagued her away forever and quieted the storm within her heart!

Note not only that She Was a Desperate and Delivered Woman but lastly:

3. SHE WAS A DEVOTED WOMAN

After she met the Master, she is devoted to Him!

Notice how her devotion to the Lord is displayed:

A. Her Devotion Is Seen In Her Finances (vs. 2-3)

Luk 8:2 And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils,

*Luk 8:3 And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, **which ministered unto him of their substance.***

It would appear that she was among those women that helped support the ministry of Jesus financially.

B. Her Devotion Is Seen In Her Following

Nearly everywhere you see Jesus in the Gospels, you find that Mary Magdalene was with Him.

She followed Him as He ministered.

She followed Him to Calvary and watched as He died, John 19:25.

She even followed His body to the tomb and remained there, with another Mary, Matt. 27:55-61.

In other words, she went as far as was humanly possible! She followed Him to the very end.

This is His desire for you and me!

He wants us to make Him our first priority, Matt. 6:33.

He wants us to follow Him single mindedly and determinately, Matt. 16:24.

Not only is her devotion seen in her Finances and following but also:

C. Her Devotion is Seen in Her Faithfulness

When all the others had gone away Mary Magdalene was still there! When the woman and the disciples came to the graveyard and found the tomb of Jesus empty, everyone went away except for Mary. She stayed behind and she was rewarded by having the first encounter with the risen Saviour.

She was faithful to Him, even when others walked away! What produced this level of devotion within her heart for Jesus? Obviously it was all that He had done for her when He saved her. She loved Him so much for all that He had done that she simply had to be near Him!

Close:

Where does this message find you today?

I have spoken about the three possible places any of us could be today!

Are you lost in sin? If so, there is a Savior Who loves you and will save you if you will come to Him.

Are you saved, but not completely following Him like He desires? He can help you take that final step of devotion.

Are you following Him with all your heart? If you are, don't give up! Get before Him and thank Him for what He's done for you and seek Him for His help for the rest of the journey.