



SEQUIM COMMUNITY CHURCH
WOMEN OF THE BIBLE
December 6, 2016

Mary Magdalene

OUTCAST TO FOLLOWER

Mary Magdalene started as an outcast---someone filled with seven demons. Yet one word from Jesus changed and healed all of that. The demons left her, and she became a new person. She became a faithful follower of Jesus---perhaps the most devoted person in his entourage...she traveled with Jesus and the Disciples. After Jesus' resurrection, she discovered the empty tomb and talked to angels who were sitting inside it. She received the call to tell the disciples of His resurrection...she saw Him first.

Read Luke 8:1-2; John 19:25; and 20:1-18

Small Group Opener

How would you define/describe authentic faith? _____

MAIN BIBLE STUDY:

1. Read Luke 8:1-2. Jesus did a miracle in Mary's life, what was it? _____

- As you look back over your life, from what controlling powers has Jesus delivered you?

- How have you experienced freedom as a follower of Christ? _____

- What does it say to you, as a woman, that Jesus and the disciples would let Mary Magdalene travel with them? _____

2. Read Matthew 11:29-30. How did Mary typify the response Jesus desired from His disciples?

3. Read John 10:3-4. How did Mary manifest the truth of these verses? _____

4. Read John 19:25. Are you surprised (or not) that Mary was present at the crucifixion?

- What do you feel this states about her faith in Jesus? _____

5. Re-read John 20:1-18. Mary Magdalene risked a lot to go to the tomb, it was early in the morning and she was an un-escorted woman in public. Why do you think she went? _____

- Where in your life is Jesus calling you to risk? _____

- What are the challenges and what are the "rewards"? _____

- What do Mary's interactions with Jesus at the tomb tell us about their relationship? _____

Going Further

Like Mary Magdalene when we come into a relationship with Jesus Christ we experience transformation or as it is referred to in the church as sanctification.

As believers we have been:

- **Justified.** Read Romans 5:1 & Galatians 2:16. What does the Apostle Paul state about our guilt? _____

- * **Sanctified.** Read 1 Corinthians 6:11. How does Paul define sanctification? _____

Now read I Thessalonians 5:23. Sanctification means growing in..... _____

Sanctification means being "set apart"...for God's honor and use (2 Timothy 2:21).

Sanctification in the New Testament refers to two things: the finished action of being made holy and the daily process of becoming holy. First sanctification is once and complete.

- Read Hebrews 10:10. What do we learn here about sanctification? _____

- Read I Corinthians 1:30. Note the tense of the verbs in this verse. _____

When we ask Jesus to be the leader of our life, God sees us as having the same holiness as Jesus. It is not something we earn. It is a gift God gives to us. The fact that God has already made us holy in Christ is often an unseen gift.

Second, sanctification is a continual and progressive process. Spiritual growth is a process and "no" there are no short cuts.

- Look at I Peter 2:2. How is the "growth process" described? _____

- Now read 2 Peter 3:18. What are the two key element of spiritual growth mentioned here? _____

So , we have been made holy by God, and we are being made holy by God.

- Now read Hebrews 10:14. How are the two elements of spiritual growth summed up here? _____

We express faith concerning these two focuses when we say "I am a sanctified person who is being sanctified." This was done (finished, completed, settle) at the moment of salvation (cf. I Corinthians 6:11 & 2 Corinthians 5:17).

Sanctification is not the process of me trying really hard to be something we are not. Sanctification is the process of beginning to live out what I already am! At the moment of salvation God changed our spiritual DNA just like Mary Magdalene!