

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

Mark 16:9-11 / Jn. 20:11-18

Mary Magdalene was a faithful follower of Jesus ever since he delivered her from being oppressed by seven demons. Satan's invisible angels. Think first of her:

THE SALVATION Since the only thing we see Mary doing in the New Testament is serving and loving Jesus, we know she was a saved person. When Bob Jones was president of his college it was said that anybody who came to his office, including cleaning services; repairmen; etc. see him had to answer the same question, *"Tell me about your conversion experience."*

The conversion experience is not what is important, it is the conversion expression. First Corinthians 15 talks about people who have "believed in vain".

Jesus says we known by our fruit and "A bad tree cannot produce good fruit and a good tree cannot produce bad fruit." (MATT. 7) We all do bad things at times, but 1 John three says a true Christian "cannot willfully keep on sinning because he is born of God."

Whenever I am trying to find out if a person is a true Christian I say, *"How do you feel when you do wrong? What do you do about it?"* If their answer is, "I feel guilty and ashamed and I ask the Lord to forgive me and help me never do that sin again." I don't have to ask them anything else. That answer shows they are true Christians

THE SLANDER Church history has not been to Mary Magdalene. Most of the Church Fathers pictured her as a great, probably a prostitute. There is not one word in the Bible that says this. Being possessed by demons did not make a person bad. At times in the New Testament we see children possessed.

THE SERVICE (Lk. 8) Jesus and his disciples walked hundreds of miles on dirt roads; through forests; up mountains and across desert areas. If it weren't for Luke we would not know that a band of ladies sometimes traveled with them. Because of these had hot nails; clean clothes; clean blankets to sleep on; bandages for their cuts, etc.

THE SCENE In the hectic and confusing events surrounding that first Easter morning, we find Mary all alone crying. She saw the stone rolled away from the cave and looked inside and saw two angels (who always appear as men) sitting where Jesus had lain. When they asked her why she was crying she said it was because someone has taken her Lord's body away. She may have been thinking of some horrible things his enemies could do to his body.

She turned around, perhaps to leave and try to find the body and saw a man standing in front of her. She did not know who he was and the man asked her why she was crying and what she was looking for. She thought he was perhaps the gardener and asked if he knew where Jesus' body was so she could find it.

Then the man (who was the risen Jesus) said one word, "Mary". That was it! Immediately