

Bible People: Mary Magdalene – Martin Bull – Mark 15 & John 20–08/07/18

Introduction

Earlier this year a film came out about Mary Magdalene. It made me ask, who was she? What does the Bible say? Taken this opportunity to dig into Bible and see what it says – want to believe the truth, not twisted truth.

Mark 15:37-41 and John 20:1-18

1. Facts about Mary

1.1 Mentioned by name more than most of the disciples – 13 times in the Gospels

1.2 Part of this band of women following Jesus – “ministered to him” (Mark 15:41)

- Supported Jesus by their own means (Luke 8:3)
- Radical women who also travelled with Jesus and the Twelve

1.3 Delivered of seven Demons – “*Mary Magdalene from whom seven demons had come out*” (Luke 8:2)

- Clearly she must have been in a bad way previously, but we don’t know much

1.4 Muddled up with other people

- John 11:2 – Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus
- Luke 7 – Sinful woman who poured perfume on Jesus’s feet
- Neither of these were Mary Magdalene – important to see what the Bible says!

Q. What untruths have lodged in our mind? About people in the Bible? About who Jesus is?

Mary’s life was changed completely, so she did everything she could to support Jesus – time, money, resources...

Q. Have you forgotten what you’ve been saved from? How is your life shaped around what Jesus did for you?

2. Jesus’ Death

Mary Magdalene has a really special place in the most remarkable events of history.

- Present at Jesus’s Death, Burial and Resurrection

John 20:1-18

What strikes me is Mary’s devotion to Jesus:

- She saw the stone had been removed and “*she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple*” (v2)
- When the disciples left, “*Mary stood outside the tomb crying.*” (v11)
- She still recognised Jesus as Lord, “*They have taken my Lord away*” (v13)

Finally, she encounters Jesus

- “*He asked her, ‘Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?’ Thinking he was the gardener, she said, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary.’ She turned towards him and cried out in Aramaic, ‘Rabboni!’*” (v15-16)
- Mary was the messenger to the messengers – she sees Jesus first and runs to tell the other disciples

Out of devotion comes encounter

Conclusion

There’s a reason that Jesus appeared first to Mary

- Firstly – she stayed there and waited
- Jesus chose – someone who he knew really wanted to see him – compassion at her heart so broken.

Q. Do you want to know Jesus more? To meet with Him?

- Devotion is the route – wait on Him – on your commute, walking to meetings, in your lunch break
- Total abandon to Him – realign your priorities – time, status, finances
- Linger in His presence

Out of her devotion came encounter