

Mary Magdalene, Apostle to the Apostles

I. Slide#1 Announce:

- A. Slide#2,3 Machaca Discipleship Program - John Gotz.
- B. Slide#4 January is the National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.
 1. Every day people are bought and sold, even young children. HT is the fastest growing organized crime, 2nd largest criminal industry in the world. HT deprives people of the **innate human rights** we are all born with, and is one of the greatest threats to ideals such as **freedom and liberty**.
- C. What? - This Sat Jan.11th is a day set aside to recognize this by our President back in 2011. I'm calling on the church to join with our team to Fast 1 day this week for HT.
- D. Why? - Because it is our Universal Duty of Compassion.
 1. Solomon, the wisest of men said, "Rescue those who are unjustly sentenced to die; save them as they stagger to their death. Don't excuse yourself by saying, Look, we didn't know." For God understands all hearts, and he sees you. He who guards your soul knows you knew. He will repay all people as their actions deserve. Prv24:11,12 NLT
- E. Let's partner with our living God in bringing the righteousness of heaven down to sinful earth. As the church prays, *may the Lord respond by bring freedom to the oppressed, and may righteousness reign.*
- F. Suggestions to pray for: Salvation. Dignity for all people. Protection for the vulnerable. Enabling the exploited. Choices for the disenfranchised. Safe & civil society. Gender equality & right relationships. Religious freedom. Sustainable economic opportunity. Political stability.

II. Slide#5 Intro:

- A. Did Mark end on verse 8? Vs9-20 are *not* in *Codex Sinaiticus & Codex Vaticanus* [codex/ancient manu]
 1. We do know that everything we find in here can be found in the other 3 gospels.
 2. We do know though it is not found in the 2 codex, is found in all other manuscripts.
 3. We do know no major doctrine is changed *nor* even diminished.
 4. We do know it is in harmony w/the rest of the NT teachings.
- B. Slide#6 Ken Gire said, "It was in a garden ages ago that **paradise was lost**, & it is in a garden now that it would be **regained**." Ken Gire, Mary Magdalene, pg.130.
- C. Slide#7 Title: *Mary Magdalene, Apostle to the Apostles*.
 1. "*Apostle to the Apostles*", an honorific title that 4th-cent orthodox theologian Augustine gave her. [i.e. apostle/one divinely sent]
- D. Let's read Mark 16:9-11 & then the fuller story in Jn.20:11-18.

III. Slide#8 WHO IS MARY MAGDALENE?

- A. Slide#9 Overview: Mary *Magdalene* was Mary from *Magdala*. [funny picture]
1. A town on the western shore of Galilee 3m. so. of Capernaum. **It was a thriving populous town.** Known for its **Dye works & primitive Textile factories.**
 2. Slide#10 & presently one of the most important **archeological digs** going on right now
- B. Slide#11 Her Family? No record of parents, marital status, or her age.
- C. Slide#12 Statistics: She is *mentioned 14 x's* in the gospels. 8 of the 14 she is named w/the other ladies and she is always **mentioned 1st**. The 5 x's she's **mentioned alone** are in connection w/ Jesus' death & res. **And** in only 1 verse is mentioned after Mary(Jesus mother)& the aunt of Jesus.
- D. Slide#13 Prostitute? *Was she?*
1. Not a shred of genuine evidence that she had a bad reputation.
 2. This came from the idea that this is *the sinful women* who anointed Jesus feet, like Mary also did, found in Lk.7:36-50.
 - a) **History continued this bad reputation:** The R.C. Church started *Magdalen Houses/Asylums* in 1324 for *fallen* women.
 - (1) Thus became the **patroness of wayward women.**
 3. **Art galleries** are full of paintings w/her as a voluptuous or a 1/2 dressed female.
 4. Slide#14 Film makers continued this idea: Remember the blasphemous rock musical *Jesus Christ Superstar* [1973]. *Mary Magdalene* was pictured as a prostitute making attempts to seduce Jesus.
 - a) *Martin Scorsese's* film *The Last Temptation of Christ* did the same.
 - b) *Mel Gibson's* *Passion of the Christ* depicted her as a women with a bad reputation.
 5. **Again**, there is not a shred of genuine evidence that she had a bad reputation.
 - a) Yet God has plenty to say about women with bad reputation/pasts/or those born on the wrong side of the tracks. Matter of fact He starts off the NT w/4 in His own genealogy.
 - b) Slide#15 **Tamar** - I've deceived (played the harlot with Judah).
 - c) **Rahab** - I've got a bad reputation (the x-prostitute).
 - d) **Ruth** - I wasn't raised a believer (wrong pedigree, a gentile, a Moabite).
 - e) **Bathsheba** - I'm an adulterous.
 - (1) Don't ever say God can't use you because of what you've done whether 10 minutes ago or 10 yrs. ago.
 - (2) Don't be a Scab Picker. *Leave the past as that.....Past!*
 - (3) We say *we can't pick our relatives*. But Jesus did. Especially to show His incredible **Love & grace** for Sinners. That's the Good News.

- (4) The stage was now set for God to do a new thing. Broader than Israel, & deeper than the law.

E. Slide#16 **7 demons** – Yes, she did have 7 demons...before she met Jesus.

1. These *dreadful inmates* must have caused such **pain & pollution**.
2. Such a horrible & hopeless case. She couldn't help herself, nor could any human help her.
3. Her conditions were worse than any of the other ladies we've met in this gospel.
4. She became a special trophy of Christ's delivering power. **A trophy of Grace**.
5. Her deranged & nerve racked mind obviously became as tranquil as the troubled lake Jesus calmed.
6. **Note:** the greatness of our sin before conversion **doesn't disqualify** us in any way of His favor.
 - a) Mary's first step from **extreme darkness** into the **most brilliant light** **wasn't** the expulsion of the demons, **but** her **meeting Jesus**. *It is Christ who casts out demons, not the expulsion of demons that brings Christ.* George Matheson, Portraits of Bible Women, pg.139
 - (1) Mary was transformed by 1 ideal, it lit the metropolis(mother state/city) of her heart on fire & it spread to all the provinces. George Matheson, Portraits of Bible Women, pg.139
7. Mary proved **that no depth of sin & no possession of numerous demons shall separate us from the love of Christ**.

F. Slide#17 **Her devotion:** *No woman* superseded her *holy fidelity* to the Master.

1. **She** traveled w/the other ladies who helped in taking care of Jesus substance.
2. **She** left her home to follow Jesus. **She** was constantly on the move. **She** gave up any personal comforts.
 - a) In some of the worlds cultures when a man saves another mans life the man whose life is saved becomes the other mans servant. He does this by choice and out of gratitude. *From the time of her deliverance Mary Magdalene followed our Lord. She went where He went. She listened, learned and believed in Jesus.*
3. **She was the last at the cross**. [she could answer **yes** to the question in the hymn, *were you there when they crucified my Lord?*]
4. **She** was earliest to the grave. **She** was sitting over against the sepulcher & watching **until** Joseph had laid the Lord's body to rest in the tomb.
5. **She** witnessed the most important event in world history, the resurrection.
 - a) Jesus chooses & permits her to be **the 1st witness** of that Resurrection. [not even his own mom!]
 - b) Jesus chooses & to appear to a woman *w/o hope*. His 1st words to her...**"why are you weeping?"**
 - c) **Are you a woman/man w/o hope? Wait for Him. Wait for His 1 word** for you today.

- (1) Notice how Christ is revealed to her...by a word, "Mary!"
 - (a) It needed but one word in His voice, & at one word she knew Him. i.e. *My sheep hear My voice*. And her heart owned allegiance by another word, "Rabboni!"
 - (b) We also just need one word of His to turn our weeping into rejoicing, His presence makes our heart's shine.
- (2) Wait for His one word for you today. Maybe it will just be your name. How would that be?

6. She was there at the tomb early.

- a) Whole new meaning to "*the early bird catches the worm.*" (Ps.22:8 to lath)
- b) When she 1st saw the tomb open she must have thought that the tomb had been violated.
 - (1) It's like buying something from the store where the seal had already been broken. Or coming home, your front door is ajar.
- c) What did they do with the body? Was it the Romans? Was it the religious leaders? Did they throw it in the garbage heap of Gehenna? Have they put it on display somewhere? (like king Saul's fastened to the walls of Bet Shan)
- d) She mistook Jesus for the gardener (after 2 1/2 yrs of walking with Him).
 - (1) Who did you mistake Jesus for, before He called you by name? Maybe you thought He was unreachable, untouchable, unknowable?

7. She was graced to see 2 angels. [explain ark of the covenant w/angels on each end]

- a) "*The woman who was once possessed w/demons finds herself in the presence of angels.*"

8. She was invited to be the 1st commissioned to herald this news. (Jn.20:17b but go...)

9. She loved her Jesus – He changed her life forever. Cast out the 7 demons. Freed her from untold torment. He gave her life. A reason to live. A place in His kingdom. Worth & dignity. Understanding & compassion. Love and Hope.

- G. (11) They did not believe – because the testimony of a woman was not accepted in a Jewish court? Nope! For they didn't even believe the witness of the 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus(13).

IV. Slide#18 WE ARE LIKE MARY MAGDALENE

A. Slide#19 We like Mary Magdalene are sinners in need of God's grace, love and forgiveness.

B. We like Mary Magdalene have been delivered from the kingdom of Satan.

1. Not all of us may have been possessed by 7 demons but all of us were his possession, chained in sin and sentenced to eternal death.
2. Maybe your 7 demons are like: Dante's 7 scars (Pride, envy, anger, intemperance, lasciviousness, covetousness, spiritual sloth). Or Solomon's 7 deadly sins (6 things

the Lord's hates, yes 7 are an abomination). Or **John Bunyan's** 7 abominations.
 What were the 7 abominations in your heart?

- C. We like **Mary Magdalene** were **unable to help ourselves**.
1. **Jesus Christ met us and called us** His own. **Then freed us** from Satan's power. **Then called us** to follow Him all the days of our lives and be His disciples.
- D. We like **Mary Magdalene** **live life** at the foot of **the cross**.
1. Through the **hearing of God's word** we have joined Mary at the foot of the cross.
 2. **We have seen our dying savior** and we know He is dying for Mary and He dying for us. He is dying because of our sins. He is dying to taking our place. Dying to take our guilt. Dying to take our punishment. Dying our death, once and for all. And for His sake we have received forgiveness and reconciliation to God.
- E. We like **Mary Magdalene** **now live standing** at the **empty tomb**.
1. With the eyes of faith we believe that Jesus was raised from the dead for our justification, proclaiming our innocence before God.
- F. We like **Mary Magdalene** **are told by Jesus to go and tell others the good news**.
- G. We like **Mary Magdalene** **share in joy and hope** in a Savior that will **never leave us nor forsake us**.
- H. We like **Mary Magdalene** **after meeting Jesus, life would never be the same** for us.
- I. We like **Mary Magdalene** **have moments that define our lives**.
1. With our lives lived at the foot of the **cross**, and now standing at the **empty tomb**, knowing what Jesus has done for us, having faith in Christ's resurrection...we too join the great cloud of witnesses that has gone before us to **proclaim God's grace in Jesus Christ to the world**. These are the moments that define our lives.
- J. **Communion:**
1. **Bread** -
 2. **Cup** -