

Encounters with Jesus, Week 4 **Small Group Discussion Guide, week of Nov. 20th**

NOVEMBER 20TH SERMON SUMMARY

ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS: MARY MAGDALENE (LUKE 8:1-3, JOHN 11:45-53)

Mary played a groundbreaking role in the scandalous, radically progressive ministry of Jesus. We can see ourselves in her story, both men and women, called by name to be His disciples.

- Jesus sought Mary out and cast out 7 demons, giving her a new identity and setting her free from the lies of Satan (Luke 8:1-3, John 8:44, John 10:27).
- In a time when women had no voice and value, Jesus elevated their status and included women as disciples (Luke 10:39, Acts 22:3).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. As we celebrate Thanksgiving this week, share one specific thing you are thankful for.

READ excerpts from LUKE 8 and JOHN 20 below:

LUKE 8:1-3 **1** After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, **2** and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; **3** Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

JOHN 20:1, 13-18 **13** They [angels] asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." **14** At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. **15** 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."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

17 Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

2. What stands out to you about Mary’s encounters with Jesus:

- as a woman possessed with 7 demons
- as a follower of Jesus
- as a first witness to the resurrection

3a. What was it like to be a woman in New Testament times? (Discuss what you heard in the sermon and elsewhere.)

b. How was Jesus different from the rabbis in the way He interacted with women?

4a. How did Jesus change Mary’s brokenness, identity and sense of worth?

b. Think about how this sheds light on Mary’s depth of emotion at the tomb (in John 20).

- What emotions do you think she was feeling?
- Why was she so emotional?

5. How do you think Jesus’ inclusiveness impacts men and women today?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

6. How did the sermon help you or impact you?

He [Satan] was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (Jn 8:44)

7a. Satan is crafty as the father of lies. What are some lies you struggle with? (Not limited to gender issues!)

b. What makes these lies so powerful?

c. How does Jesus call you into the light, and set you free from those lies?