

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 8th November 2015

HEROINES OF THE FAITH – MARY MAGDALENE

As We Gather

Throughout His ministry, Jesus was accompanied and supported by a group of older women. In a time when good women did not appear among strangers unaccompanied, Jesus, by permitting women to travel with Him, was showing that under God all people are equal.

Reading Scripture **LUKE 8:2** **MATTHEW 27:55ff** **MARK 16** **JOHN 20**

Thinking together

Mary Magdalene came from a small, but prosperous town to the west of the Sea of Galilee. Having met Jesus and been healed by Him [Luke 8:2], she was released from the bondage of demon possession to a life of joy and fruitfulness among the women who supported Jesus' ministry with their personal funds [Matthew 27:55-56].

**Do you offer your resources to God, whether or not you are centre stage in the church?
Discuss**

Through her faithful living, Mary acted out her gratitude for the freedom Christ gave her. Her faith was simple, direct and genuine. She was a deeply caring woman and her reaction to Jesus demonstrates that those who are obedient grow in understanding and fruitfulness

What are the demons that plague us today? Discuss

Have you been freed from your demons to live fruitfully? Discuss

Mary Magdalene loved her Lord and was deeply faithful. She is an example of how no degree of bondage can prevent anyone from being freed to fruitful service for Christ

- She and the other women witnessed Jesus' crucifixion (Mark 15:40)
- She was present when Jesus was laid in the tomb [Matthew 27:61]
- She was among the first to hear of Jesus' resurrection [Mark 16:1-8]
- She was the first to see and talk with the risen Christ [John 20:11-18 and Proverbs 8:17]

Have you personally met the risen Christ? Discuss

Have you ever wished you could touch, see, hear Jesus? Discuss

Jesus knows all about our sorrows and reveals Himself to us just as He did to Mary. By so doing He radically changes our lives as He changes

- Death to life
- Sorrow to joy and love
- Fear and despair to courage, assurance, hope and faith

How has Jesus changed your life? Discuss

In Closing

Women are critical to Christ's ministry. Mary Magdalene was the first witness to the good news when Christ sent her to share the Word which generates faith [John 20:18 see also Romans 10:17 and 1 Peter 1:23-25].

What is the role of women in your church?