

the **FOLLOWERS**

November 23, 2014
Elevation | 10:45 am
Pastor Matt Davis

Mary Magdalene

Our backstory doesn't disqualify us from being faithful followers Luke 8:1-2

- **What's your story? A movement away from hiding from the past**
"...He began going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God. The twelve were with Him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out..." (Luke 8:1-2)

Mary Magdalene's Storyline (outlined from "Twelve Extraordinary Women" by John MacArthur, pgs. 171-185)

DARKNESS	DELIVERANCE	DISCIPLESHIP	DISASTER	DAYBREAK
Mark 16:9; Luke 8:2	Luke 11:24-26	Luke 8:1-3	John 19:25; Mark 15:40-16:1 Luke 23:55-56	Matthew 28:6-8; Mark 16:6-9; Luke 24:6; John 20:1-18
"Soon afterwards, He began going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God. The twelve were with Him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out..." (Luke 8:1-2)	"When the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and not finding any, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds it swept and put in order. Then it goes and <i>takes along seven other spirits more evil than itself</i> , and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first." (Luke 11:24-26)	"Soon afterwards, He began going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God. The twelve were with Him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out..." (Luke 8:1-2)	"But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene." (John 19:25) "Now the women who had come with Him out of Galilee followed, and saw the tomb and how His body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and perfumes." (Luke 23:55-56)	"Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb... Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," (John 20:1, 18) "Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene..." (Mark 16:9)

Jesus offers hope in the stories of His followers John 20:1-18

- **Morning glory: A movement from darkness to daybreak in our own lives**
"Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb... Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (John 20:1,16)

Digging Deeper:

What's Your Storyline?

We can see how the storyline of Mary Magdalene is a beautiful story of hope for an unexpected follower. Mary was an unexpected follower of Jesus first because she was a woman. It is true that most rabbis in the first century culture did not allow women to be their disciples. But Jesus encouraged men and women alike to follow. He honored Mary and many other women. Mary Magdalene was also an unexpected follower because she came from a background that was in opposition to the work and mission of Jesus being possessed by not just one, but seven demons. It is important to look at our own storylines and try to figure out where we are as followers of Jesus. You might be in darkness completely apart from the plan of God for your life. You might be a faithful follower walking the path of discipleship and waiting for daybreak from some disasters in your life. It is possible that not all of the elements below are part of your storyline or that some parts are missing. Use Mary's life as a means of reflecting your own. Wherever you are at, be as detailed or as general as you want to be, but look through your own journey that brought you into the seat you are sitting in today and be thankful for God's goodness in your life.



LifeGroup Discussion:

1. Has your storyline been one of ups and downs or more of a straight line? If you have come from a past with lots of trouble and even shame, have you allowed that to prevent you from following Jesus as He has called you? Or, how have you overcome your past to be faithful in your present?
2. Scripture never records that Mary's love for Jesus ever waivered. She was among the last, even among the disciples to be at the cross, observed when his body was laid to rest and then the first to show up to give Jesus a proper burial. Her example highlights her thankfulness because she knew the depth of what she had been redeemed from. What has Jesus redeemed you from that you could never redeem yourself from? (John 19:25; Matthew 27:55)
3. Mary knew the voice of Jesus. In her initial confusion in the garden, she didn't recognize Jesus until He called her name. John 10:3-4 says, "He calls His own sheep by name...and they know His voice." How have you heard the voice of Jesus in your life?

Next Steps:

1. **Take some time to think through your storyline and let the grace you have received from Jesus lead you to celebrate Thanksgiving with greater joy.** Join us for a special service on Thanksgiving morning, November 27 at 10:00 am in Samsvick Chapel and share your testimony of God's goodness in your life. Learn more at calvarylife.org/thanksgiving
2. **Seek counseling or prayer support to work through some of the dark places in your storyline and find healing and hope.** Discover more about receiving counseling or prayer through Calvary Care Ministries by contacting 714.550.2334 or care@calvarylife.org or visit calvarylife.org/care