

Episode: Luke Series No. 9

Narrator: Mary Magdalene

Primary Scriptures: Luke 8

Story Summary: Some healings and miracles of Jesus

Location: Galilee

Time: Circa 30 AD

Suggested Memory Scriptures: Luke 8:2-3, 8:14, 8:21, 8:25, 8:38-39

Over the centuries, many people have observed that Jesus was one of the first world leaders concerned with women's rights. When it came to women, Jesus wasn't as concerned with the day-to-day societal norms as he was with their worth. In many ancient societies, including the time when Jesus was born, women were considered property, with worth far below that of men—the Roman Empire even codified this in their laws. It was only during the following decades that women started receiving more legal rights.

Jesus cared for women as much as men. He healed them, he talked to them, he taught them, he loved them, and in doing so, he made it clear that God loves women as much as he loves men. That is one reason why so many women followed Jesus and cared for his needs and the needs of the apostles, as well as rose to positions of leadership in the early Church.

One of the things that is challenging about the Gospel stories is that there are so many women named Mary, and it is not always clear which one is which. The mother of Jesus is named Mary. The sister of Martha and Lazarus is named Mary. A woman who was healed of seven demons is named Mary and sometimes referred to as Mary Magdalene. The mother of John Mark is named Mary. There is a woman married to Clopas named Mary, who was the mother of James and Joseph. And even that information is not perfectly clear and undisputed.

This episode is narrated by Mary Magdalene. Many people associate things with Mary Magdalene that are not necessarily verified in the Bible. Perhaps this episode will clear up some misunderstandings.

With the Parable of the Sower, Luke shows Jesus starting to teach in parables, which is essentially a short story with spiritual meaning. One of the interesting things about the Parable of the Sower is that Jesus explained the meaning of the parable to his close disciples. The Gospel writers did not record that happening very often.

According to *Luke*, the story of the demoniac living in the country of the Gerasenes is a true story, not a parable. The end of that story is very intriguing, in that the healed man wanted to follow Jesus, but was instead commanded to return home and tell people what God had done for him. What did the former demoniac do? He went through the whole city telling people—and therefore showing them—what Jesus had done!

Discussion Questions:

1. What is a parable? Why did Jesus use parables in his teaching?
 2. Why were women especially attracted to the teachings of Jesus?
 3. If you read the Parable of the Sower in Luke 8:5-8, would you have discerned the meaning that Jesus explained in Luke 8:11-15?
 4. Are you a sibling of Jesus? Did the apostle Paul have this scripture in mind when he wrote of Christians being adopted by God?
 5. Why do you think Jesus commanded the demoniac to go tell his story in his home rather than coming to follow Jesus?
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1. A short story with a spiritual meaning. It was a common method to teach. People would remember the stories and reflect on them. With reflection, they would learn spiritual meanings. 2. He taught that women had equal value as men to God. He treated them with respect and care. 4. Luke 8:21 5. His testimony would be very compelling, he needed to ask forgiveness of others

Application Questions

1. Did this episode change your perception on the status of women in the eyes of Jesus? What can you do to more fully embody Jesus' perception of women in the world?
2. In the Parable of the Sower, what kind of seed do you identify with? What would it take for you to identify with the seed that returned a hundredfold?
3. If you had been the healed demoniac, and been told to tell people about Jesus, what kind of excuses would you might have tried to make?
4. Have you ever wanted to be healed from a habit so badly that you would be as bold as the woman who reached out to touch Jesus? What kind of things make you bold?

Application Questions for Teens

1. In the Parable of the Sower, one of the kinds of seed wasn't very productive because it was choked out by the pleasures of life. What kind of pleasures of life keep you from being productive at school? Within your family? For Jesus?
2. The most fruitful seed was fruitful in part because it held the Word of God closely to its heart? What would you need to do to be described as hold the Word of God closely? In the last seven days, how many minutes did you read the Bible?
3. The apostles were marveled that Jesus calmed the storm. When you think of things that Jesus has done, what things make you marvel... physical things or spiritual things?
4. Do you ever make excuses to keep from doing what a parent asked you to do? What would have happened differently if you had just been cheerfully obedient?