

# Mary Magdalene

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**a Luke 8:1-3**

*After this, while Jesus was traveling through some cities and small towns, he preached and told the Good News about God's kingdom. The twelve apostles were with him,<sup>2</sup> and also some women who had been healed of sicknesses and evil spirits: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out;<sup>3</sup> Joanna, the wife of Chuza (the manager of Herod's house); Susanna; and many others. These women used their own money to help Jesus and his apostles.*

**b Introducing Mary Magdalene**

**c What does "Magdalene" mean?**

From the city of Magdala, a small city on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee, the modern city of Mejdal. (See a New Testament Bible map.) This was probably Mary's home town.

**d What had Jesus done for her?**

Jesus had saved her from terrible demon possession (Luke 8:2).

**e What was her ministry?**

*"These women used their own money to help Jesus and his apostles." (Luke 8:3)*

**f Who worked with her?**

Several other women, some of whom are named in Luke 8:3

**g Note the preceding story:**

**h**

**Luke 7:36-50**

<sup>36</sup> *One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, so Jesus went into the Pharisee's house and sat at the table.*

<sup>37</sup> *A sinful woman in the town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house. So she brought an alabaster jar of*

**Compare to John 12:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> *Six days before the Passover Feast, Jesus went to Bethany, where Lazarus lived. (Lazarus is the man Jesus raised from the dead.)* <sup>2</sup> *There they had a dinner for Jesus. Martha served the food, and Lazarus was one of the people eating with Jesus.*

<sup>3</sup> *Mary brought in a pint of very expensive perfume made from pure nard. She poured the perfume on Jesus' feet,*

perfume<sup>38</sup> and stood behind Jesus at his feet, crying. She began to wash his feet with her tears, and she dried them with her hair, kissing them many times and rubbing them with the perfume.

<sup>39</sup> When the Pharisee who asked Jesus to come to his house saw this, he thought to himself, "If Jesus were a prophet, he would know that the woman touching him is a sinner!"

<sup>40</sup> Jesus said to the Pharisee, "Simon, I have something to say to you."

Simon said, "Teacher, tell me."

<sup>41</sup> Jesus said, "Two people owed money to the same banker. One owed five hundred coins and the other owed fifty."<sup>42</sup> They had no money to pay what they owed, but the banker told both of them they did not have to pay him. Which person will love the banker more?"

<sup>43</sup> Simon, the Pharisee, answered, "I think it would be the one who owed him the most money."

Jesus said to Simon, "You are right."<sup>44</sup> Then Jesus turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? When I came into your house, you gave me no water for my feet, but she washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair."<sup>45</sup> You gave me no kiss of greeting, but she has been kissing my feet since I came in."<sup>46</sup> You did not put oil on my head, but she poured perfume on my feet."<sup>47</sup> I tell you that her many sins are forgiven, so she showed great love. But the person who is forgiven only a little will love only a little."

<sup>48</sup> Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

<sup>49</sup> The people sitting at the table began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

and then she wiped his feet with her hair. And the sweet smell from the perfume filled the whole house.

<sup>4</sup> Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' followers who would later turn against him, was there. Judas said,<sup>5</sup> "This perfume was worth three hundred coins. Why wasn't it sold and the money given to the poor?"<sup>6</sup> But Judas did not really care about the poor; he said this because he was a thief. He was the one who kept the money box, and he often stole from it.

<sup>7</sup> Jesus answered, "Leave her alone. It was right for her to save this perfume for today, the day for me to be prepared for burial."<sup>8</sup> You will always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me."

<sup>50</sup> *Jesus said to the woman, "Because you believed, you are saved from your sins. Go in peace."*

*i* Many people **incorrectly** assume that

*j* (1) the unnamed woman in this [Luke7] story is Mary Magdalene.

The woman in the Luke 7 story is not named. She may be Mary Magdalene, but it might not be Mary Magdalene. We simply do not know, and it is unsafe for us to guess her identity.

*k* (2) the story is the same event in John 12:1-8, where Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, anoints Jesus in Bethany a week before his crucifixion, [*False!*] and

*l* (3) Mary Magdalene is the sister of Martha. [*False!*]

*m* Note: These two stories describe different events,

*n* at two very different times,

*o* in two very different places (Galilee vs. Bethany).

*p* **John 19:25** *At the cross*

*q* ...with whom?

*Standing near his cross were  
Jesus' mother,  
his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas,  
and Mary Magdalene. (John 19:25)*

Was "his mother's sister" and "Mary the wife of Clopas" the same person? Or were they different women, with the sister unnamed? We don't know for sure.

*r* **John 20:1-18** *At the tomb*

<sup>1</sup> *Early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb while it was still dark. When she saw that the large stone had been moved away from the tomb, <sup>2</sup> she ran to Simon Peter and the follower whom Jesus loved. Mary said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him."*..

[Peter & John visit the tomb.]

<sup>10</sup> Then the followers went back home. <sup>11</sup> But Mary stood outside the tomb, crying. As she was crying, she bent down and looked inside the tomb. <sup>12</sup> She saw two angels dressed in white, sitting where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and one at the feet.

<sup>13</sup> They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

She answered, "They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they have put him."<sup>14</sup> When Mary said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know it was Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> Jesus asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Whom are you looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said to him, "Did you take him away, sir? Tell me where you put him, and I will get him."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary."

Mary turned toward Jesus and said in the Jewish language, "Rabboni." (This means Teacher.)

<sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, "Don't hold on to me, because I have not yet gone up to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am going back to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' "

<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and said to the followers, "I saw the Lord!" And she told them what Jesus had said to her.

## s Parallel accounts:

t Mark 15:40,47

u Mark 16:1

<sup>37</sup> Then Jesus cried in a loud voice and died.

<sup>38</sup> The curtain in the Temple was torn into two pieces, from the top to the bottom. <sup>39</sup> When the army officer who was standing in front of the cross saw what happened when Jesus died, he said, "This man really was the Son of God!"

<sup>40</sup> Some women were standing at a distance from the cross, watching; among them were Mary Magdalene, Salome, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph. (James was her youngest son.) <sup>41</sup> These women had followed Jesus in Galilee and helped him. Many other women were also there who had come with Jesus to Jerusalem.

<sup>42</sup> This was Preparation Day. (That means the day before the Sabbath day.) That evening, <sup>43</sup> Joseph from Arimathea was brave enough to go to Pilate and ask for Jesus' body.... <sup>46</sup> Joseph bought some linen cloth, took the body down from the cross, and wrapped it in the linen. He put the body in a tomb that was cut out of a wall of rock. Then he rolled a very large stone to block the entrance of the tomb. <sup>47</sup> And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw the place where Jesus was laid.

<sup>16:1</sup> The day after the Sabbath day, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought some sweet-smelling spices to put on Jesus' body. <sup>2</sup> Very early on that day, the first day of the week, soon after sunrise, the women were on their way to the tomb. <sup>3</sup> They said to each other, "Who will roll away for us the stone that covers the entrance of the tomb?"

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*For information about fiction writer Dan Brown's incorrect speculation (The DaVinci Code) that Jesus married Mary Magdalene, see [www.christdeaf.org/bible](http://www.christdeaf.org/bible).*

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## **"Did Jesus marry Mary Magdalene?"**

No, not according to those who were eye witnesses to Jesus' life and ministry.

A recently published novel and movie have sparked a lot of sensational speculation on TV and in news magazines on this question. This is a fictional story, but many readers and viewers who are unfamiliar with the historical record believe that the basis of the novel might be true. *The Da Vinci Code's* careless deviations from documented history are far too many to list here.

Author Dan Brown says that New Testament was compiled in AD 325 by Emperor Constantine to consolidate power in the Roman Catholic Church. One problem with this theory is that the Roman Catholic Church organization didn't begin to exist until 150 years later. Also, European, Middle Eastern, and African church leaders were teaching the NT Gospels and Paul's NT letters almost 200 years before Constantine was even born! *The Da Vinci Code* has so many basic facts of history about the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Council of Nicea wrong, it should be no surprise that the novel got the Biblical record wrong, too.

Fanciful speculations of this sort are not new. During my life time there has been a sensational new "discovery" like this about once every ten years. But when you have the choice of either trusting the validated reports of eye witnesses, or accepting the speculations of a fiction writer 2,000 years later, the reasonable choice is obvious.

If you want to read about whom Jesus *will* marry, read Ephesians 5.25 and Revelation 21.

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***Is there anything in the Gospels that indicates Jesus wasn't married? There seems to be little said about the family life of the apostles."***

While there is not a verse in the Bible that says, "Jesus never married," we can scratch beneath the surface and get more information.

The Gospels have some family information about Peter, James & John, and Jesus. Then in Acts and the Epistles we learn about families of Paul, Timothy, Barnabas, Aquila & Priscilla.

The apparent disappearance of Joseph in Jesus' adult life is a mystery. It is safe to assume that Joseph died between the time Jesus was 12 and 30 years old. But continued references to Mary, her daughters, and her four other sons throughout Jesus' ministry, to Pentecost, and beyond, add

weight to the silence about a wife for Jesus.

Also consider that women in the NT are most frequently identified by their family relationships:

- Elizabeth, wife of Zechariah
- Mary wife of Joseph, mother of Jesus
- Mary's sister
- Mary the wife of Clopas
- Sisters Mary & Martha, and their brother Lazarus
- The unnamed wife of Peter
- Mother-in-law of Peter
- The unnamed wife of Zebedee; mother of James and John
- Herodius wife of Philip, then wife of Herod (Philip's brother)
- Johanna, wife of Chuza, Herod's steward
- Mary, mother of John Mark
- Priscilla, wife of Aquila
- Lois & Eunice, Grandmother & mother of Timothy

Mary Magdalene was always identified, not by her family relationships, but her city of origin (Magdala).

Dan Brown contends that in Da Vinci's depiction of the Last Supper, the disciple sitting on Jesus' right was not the Apostle John, but Mary Magdalene. However, the same Gospel writer who identifies that disciple explicitly describes him as male (*John 13:23-25; 21:20,21*).

Throughout the novel, Brown zealously promotes feminist goddess worship, and is critical of Christians for suppressing that "great treasure"... never mind the First Commandment given to Israel 1,500 years earlier, "You must have no other gods." According to *The DaVinci Code*, Jesus was not true God, but Mary Magdalene was a true goddess.