

GOD'S CALLING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Lesson Eight

IN THE GOSPELS: Mary the Magdalene

Burden to Impart:

One of the most loving and faithful disciples of Jesus was a woman who had been possessed with seven demons, Mary the Magdalene. With great gratitude for her salvation, she ministered to the Lord and accompanied Him in all of His sufferings and trials from Galilee to the cross. The Lord Jesus appeared in resurrection to her first.

Memory Verse: “Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary the Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons” (Mark 16:9).

Facts to Teach:

1. Although the twelve Apostles were all men, Lord also called many women to follow Him. The Lord's most notable female disciple was Mary, the Magdalene (from Magdala, John 19:25).
2. When the Lord met Mary Magdalene in Galilee, she was possessed with seven demons (Luke 8:2). She probably became demon possessed by worshipping idols. After she was set free from the demons, she had no other desire than to follow the Lord wherever He went. Her one desire was to be one of His disciples and helpers. One way that she and other women helped Jesus and his disciples was by supplying them with money (Luke 8:3).
3. Mary followed the Lord and His disciples in His ministry from Galilee to Jerusalem (Matt. 27:55-56). Though she was not a blood relative, the Lord considered her to be one of His sympathizing sisters because she gave up everything to do God's will (Matt. 13:48-50). She also suffered with the Lord in all of His trials and rejection (Luke 22:28).
4. Even when the Lord was crucified, Mary did not forsake Him. She and other women followed Him all the way to the end (Matt. 27:55-56). They even lingered around after His death to watch His burial. Then, they went home to prepare spices and ointments (Luke 23:55—56).
5. Having kept the Sabbath, Mary's love for the Lord brought her back to the tomb on the first day of the week even before dawn. She brought the spices and came with other women to Jesus' tomb. However, the stone was rolled away and Jesus' body was gone. When they entered the tomb, they saw two angels who told them that Jesus had risen from the dead. After reporting this to the disciples they all returned to the tomb to confirm her word (Luke 24:9-12). Seeing that it was true, they were all perplexed and went back home. Mary, however, stayed at the tomb alone (John 20: 10-18). The Lord Jesus came to her and spoke her name. She was the first one the Lord Jesus appeared to in resurrection. It was not to Peter, nor to John, but to Mary. Even before He ascended to the Father, He had to appear to Mary! What a disciple!