

THE CHOSEN: MARY MAGDALENE (1)

***Some time later, Jesus travelled through the towns and villages, preaching the Good News about the Kingdom of God. The twelve disciples went with him, and so did some women who had been healed of evil spirits and diseases: Mary *who is called Magdalene*, from whom seven demons had been driven out; Joanna, whose husband Chuza was an officer in Herod's court; and Susanna, and many other women who use their own resources to help Jesus and his disciples (Luke 8:1-3).**

***Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the entrance. She went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loves, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" (John 20:1-2).**

***Then she turned round and saw Jesus standing there; but she did not know that it was Jesus. "Woman, why are you crying?", Jesus asked her. "Who is it that you are looking for?"**

She thought he was the gardener, so she said to him, "If you took him away, sire, tell me where you are put him, and I will go and get him". Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned to him and said in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" *This means "Teacher"* (John 20:14-16).

Video Spot: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6sHNLmYbAM>
Watch excerpt from the end of Episode One, from 35:00—38'08
Or watch the whole episode if you have time....
And if you have more, time Episode Two as well ☺

Discussion Questions:

1) Have you watched any or all of Series One of *The Chosen*? What did you think of it?

2) Who was Mary Magdalene? What do the Gospels tell us about her?

Read Luke 8:1-3; Mark 16:1-2; John 20:1-18

If Mary was the unnamed prostitute in Luke 7, and Mary of Bethany, what more does this tell us about Mary Magdalene? *Read Luke 7:36-50; 10:38-42; John 12:1-3*

3) The writers of *The Chosen* give us a back story for Mary Magdalene. Share what you know about this back story, and read the summary on pages 3 & 4 of this study. What do you think of this as a possible back story for Mary?

4) What does the story of Mary Magdalene remind you of? Does it remind you of your own rescue by God through Jesus? Share what God's rescue of you means to you?

5) How does Mary respond to God's rescue of her through Jesus? How are you responding to God's rescue of you through Jesus?

Quotes:

The following are quotes from Sunday's message on the theme, "Mary, her story, and what it means for us":

***The writers of *The Chosen* use the facts from the Gospels, together with their imagination to craft a possible back story for Mary Magdalene.... They do this to encourage us to read the Gospels for ourselves.** Dallas Jenkins, a writer and the director of this series says:

"The ultimate goal is to get you to go back to Scripture, whether you are a believer or not".

Let me share with you some of the plot of the first episode or two of *The Chosen*.... We are introduced to Mary, *known by all as Liluth*, a woman who is demon possessed and lives in the Red Quarter of the town of Capernaum. She has had a devout father and mother and cherishes *in her sane moments a little scroll of Scripture* in a doll that her parents have given her.

This is a scroll of Isaiah 43:1

But now thus says the Lord,

He who created you, O Jacob,

He who formed you, O Israel

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine"

In one of her insane moments, she hurts a man who is with her. Nicodemus, "the Teacher of teachers" visiting from Jerusalem, goes with bells and incense to try to drive the demons out from Mary, *or Lilith as he knows her*. He fails miserably, and the demons in Mary cry out to him as he flees:

"We are not afraid of you!"

After this, Mary despairs that anyone can help her. She goes to a cliff overlooking the Sea of Galilee, tears up her scroll of Isaiah 43:1, and prepares to commit suicide.... However, a dove keeps hovering over her, and flying around her, and she changes her mind. She goes back to bar that she frequents

and asks for a large drink. As she goes to pick up her drink, a stranger puts his hand on hers. She says, “Don’t touch me” and she rushes out of the bar drink in hand, and the stranger follows her. He calls out to her, *and remember everyone knows her as Lilith, and nobody knows her real name:* “Mary! Mary of Magdala!”

She drops her wine, and turns to him, and asks,
“Who are you? How do you know my name?” (*cf. Isaiah 43:1*).

Jesus responds by speaking Isaiah 43:1

But now thus says the Lord,
*He who created you, O Jacob,
He who formed you, O Israel*

**“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine”**

Jesus then places his hands on either side of her head. She cries out, and Jesus puts his arms around her. Shortly afterwards we see Mary restored to health: “Redeemed”.

***What are we reminded of in the story of Mary Magdalene in the Bible, and in this *The Chosen* series?**

Firstly, that we too like Mary Magdalene have been rescued from a hopeless situation.... Like Mary after Jesus healed her of those demonic spirits, we are “redeemed” people, people who have been rescued by God from our hopeless situation *through the suffering and death of God’s Son for us.*

Secondly, the only appropriate response to all that God has done for us through His Son, Jesus *is the response of Mary Magdalene:* that of following Jesus and listening and learning from him.... And Jesus calls us to live our life in loving service of others, as he did, *out of intense and overwhelming gratitude for our rescue.