

slight faults or wrongs that have been done to them or even opposition to their will. Good examples of this are (Jezebel) who was determined to avenge the preacher Elijah and actually abused him in many ways and then there was also the woman in (Herodias) who disliked the preaching of the John the Baptist because he preached against her sin.

*Women - This P.M. stopped spoke to me - I still remember the sermon you preached last week -*

There are other women however (who can never forget the good) that is done to them. They always want to repay ~~that~~ that good and become a blessing to the world. Such a woman was (Joanah) she had been cured by her Lord, either of possession of evil spirits or of a disease. Out of her gratitude she attached herself to that body of women who accompanied Him upon His journeys and ministered unto Him. In fact she was one of the ones who came with Mary to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus with spices.

Another woman who could never forget was (Martha) who always remembered the goodness of hers from the <sup>dead</sup> and she could never do enough for Jesus.

(Of all) the grateful women in the Bible who could not forget, Mary Magdalene is the outstanding person. She may stand for us as a symbol of the worship of the Christ by women who cannot forget that Christ has done so much for them. We are introduced to this Mary in vers 1. In our own

INTRODUCTION: During our last discourse we dealt with the (burial) of Jesus and finally the tomb was sealed. We know that this was the following moment just before the passover and perhaps the noisy throng had followed the Sanhedrin to the ceremony of turning the (Passover sheaf). The law had it, "It shall bring a sheaf, literally the omer, with the firth fruits of your harvest unto the priest and he shall wave the omer before Jehovah, to be accepted before you." This passover sheaf was reaped in public the evening before it was offered and it was to witness this ceremony that the crowd had gathered around the elders. First the sheaf was to be reaped had been marked out by tying together in bundles while still standing. The (barley) that was to be cut down according to the custom in the valley across Kidron. Even though it were a Sabbath, just as the sun went down 3 men each with a scythe and basket set to work. Clearly to bring out what was distinctive in this ceremony they first asked of the by standers three times each of these questions: "Has the sun gone down? With this scythe, into this basket on this sabbath? And lastly, shall I reap? Having each time been answered each time in the affirmative they cut down barley to the amount of one ephah or about 3 pecks and 3 pints of our English measure. This is not the place

to follow the ceremony further how the corn was threshed out parched, ground, and one omer of the flour mixed with oil and francence waved before the Lord in the Temple and now on the tomorrow after the preparation the Friday, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together unto Pilate saying, "Sir, we remember that ~~that~~ Caesar said while he was yet alive after 3 days I rise again. Now lest His disciples speak to him so they daid, why not station a guard and so Pilate was cooperative with them thinking of how they might make sure of the dead Christ what were the thoughts of Joseph of Armethia and Nichodemus and of Peter and John and the other disciples who only waited for the streak of Easter light to do their service of love. What were their thoughts of God?

It seems that behind Jesus had closed the gates of Hell and upon Him had fallen the shadowax of death and yet they still loved him and stronger in death was that love.

It seems now that the one thing which the apostles were most concerned with and should have been concerned about was producing of some proof concerning the resurrection of Jesus Christ that was to take place.

First because it was that which He himself appealed to as the last and most conventional proof of His being the Messiah. They would not believe the others prophets

and they would not believe the other signs even though He referred to the signs of the prophet Johah. Yet His enemies were very careful to notice this and they say that if He does rise, then we will be murderers and we will be thought of more than, we will be murderers of the Messiah.

Second, because it was upon this the performance of His undertakings for our redemption and salvation that all of this depended. If He gave His life a ransom and if He does not resume it and take up life again then the debt will be unpaid. I Corinthians 15:17. Third because He never showed Himself alive after His resurrection to all the people, Acts 10:40-41. We should have said let this death be private and let the resurrection be public, but God's thoughts are not ours and God ordered that His death should be made public but the demonstration of His resurrection should be reserved as a favor for His particular friends and those who had followed and they in turn ~~were~~ were to publish this fact throughout the world and so the heart of Jesus needed some proof of His resurrection. The first individual on the scene that we consider tonight is Mary Magdalene. She took the most permanent part and is given the most prominent place in the passion narrative of our Lord. She could never forget what Jesus had done for her. Women who cannot forget are often troublemakers. They cannot overlook or forget.

she was delivered from the mortal sin that plagued the lives of most people, she stands as a monument of the grace of God. Whatever Mary's past, her change is an illustration of the spiritual resurrection in the life of an individual. Undoubtedly it is a resurrection but it is not the only resurrection. There later arose some in the church. This is the demonstration that Christ is living today. Whenever a character is changed, whenever a sinner is transformed from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light when habits are broken and a new life begins we have evidence of the fact that Christ has risen from the dead and is living.

Immediately after Mary was changed she entered upon a ministry of gratitude to Christ. She joined a little group of women who ministered unto ~~him~~ Him with their substance. ~~There~~ Very probably Mary came from a family of much substance and now she not only is a dedicated person, but she is dedicated ~~to~~ her possessions. She is devoted to her service to Christ even when others have failed Him. When all the others had fled from Jesus at the time that He was captured the time of His trial, she stood by even during the Passion hours on the cross and she saw all of the events at the cross. And then not doubt, she followed the procession to the tomb and certainly ~~it~~ wept at the tomb where the Son of God lay.

We know that one of the strange things about bereavement

life we see the spiritual resurrection from a life condemned to bondage and through our eyes we can see the physical resurrection of Jesus. As we get this introduction to her we see that this woman certainly had a unique experience. This has resulted in Mary being identified with the woman who was a sinner. Mary had been healed of evil spirits, infirmities, (seven devils) going out from her. There are several theories about Mary's past. The first theory is that she was pictured as a sinful woman and by Zwinger who painted a picture, pictured her as a sinful woman in a cave with her badgers of sin and as a fallen woman and the words Magdalene has come to represent a fallen woman. We houses of Magdalene, Houses for such poor souls who were victims of social evil. The Roman church has done more than any other influence to fasten this stigma upon Mary by the means of the practice of a very worthy charity back in the 14th century they established a series of monasteries called Magdalen Houses in each of which were 3 congregations. Those of saint Magdalene, those of Saint Martha and those of Saint Lazarus which reveals the Roman identification Mary Magdalene the fallen woman and Mary of Bethany one person. There may be some question about the identification of the fallen woman and Mary of Bethany but certainly this fallen woman cannot be Mary Magdalene. Since that date

Magdalene houses have been established all over the world.

Certainly a woman who was possessed with demons is not one who would be profitable in the oldest trade in the world, that fallen woman was saved at a house of Simon, the Pharisee who had invited Jesus and His disciples to a feast and we remembered that during this feast this woman of the streets entered and made her way directly to Jesus and Simon did not stop her thinking that probably Christ could help her. And kneeling she washed his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hairs of her head and anointed them with precious ointment which was undoubtedly purchased of the reward of her iniquity and we know that Mary was saved from the 7 demons.

The second interpretation is that Mary was daemon possessed that is her mind was not exactly right. And rather than being a fallen woman she was thought of as an afflicted woman who suffered from an unfortunate condition prevalent in Jesus's day. We recall that the story of the Demoniac of Gadara of which was across the lake from Magdala where tradition says that there were many demons possessed and where Christ healed them they had broken chains this man had and who dwelt in caves and frightened all people who came to him. We have a picture of Mary who must have been like that and that this particular demon-possessed

perhaps was that which was her illness and she was exposed to the extreme calamity or some other cause may have back of it. Mary was healed and was returned, clothed and in her right mind to her home and to her family and no wonder that Mary's attitude to the Lord Jesus was great. Now the third interpretation or theory of the history of Mary was which has been advanced by Dr. MacLaren. He believed that these 7 demons were figurative representations of 7 sins of Dante, which are to be found in the hearts of us all and Mary neither a great sinner nor was she a crazy person but that she was perfectly delivered in this world from the evil that hound each of us namely pride, envy, anger, lasciviousness, covetousness, intemperance, and spiritual sloth. The old Scottish testified that he could never find those demons completely vanished from his heart and life and that anyone so delivered must have been a great saint. Mary became just such a saint. This kind of resurrection we all need to know. It is quite clear that whatever the original condition of Mary she was thoroughly and completely changed by the power of Christ. Her reason returned to her and she looked out upon the world with rational understanding. If she was a great sinner of the streets then when Jesus told her, "Go in peace, thy faith has saved thee" a transformation occurred that was a mighty miracle. If through listening to His teaching

days and in every day. She (was surprised) She found the stone rolled away from the door of the sepulchre. His grave had become one of the wells of foundation. We shall find a stone rolled away as Genesis 29:10. And free access to the comforts of it.

It was the beginning of (a glorious discovery). The Lord was risen and she did not at first apprehend it. We note that those who were close to Christ did not fully realize all that was taken place. God ordinarily reveals Himself and His comforts to us by degrees, to raise our expectations and quicken our inquiries.

In (verse 2) she hastens off to (give a testimony) and to tell others what she has witnessed.

What a notion Mary had of the thing as it now appears she found the stone gone, looked into the grave, and saw it empty. ~~She~~ We expected that the (first thought) that would have come would have been surely the Lord has risen. But ~~she~~ He had told them that He should be crucified, that this ladder would be accomplished and on the third day He would arise.

Could she feel the great earthquake that had happened and had witnessed the darkness and had come to the sepulchre and now see the grave empty and yet had no thought of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In her mind was there no suspicion that He had truly come forth from the grave. When we come to reflect upon our

*This journey (that I had to go to pray for you. I had to go for you every day since you came to our ch. Could not get out a word to in Latin yrs.*

is that when we have lost one that we have loved that then we remember those particular things that stood out as being great and good are well-remembered and no doubt Mary remembered Jesus for what He had done for Her He was the Lily of the Valley, the Rose of Sharon, the Bright and Morning Star, He was the Sunrise and the Sunset of her soul. Life without Jesus for Mary was meaningless. It was empty and void.

Mary loved in Christ that which others hated, namely His (perfect goodness and righteousness). Sinful men do not love

Christ for His perfection show up their imperfections. Thus we may understand the sorrow of Mary in her sense of loss

at the death of Jesus, her woman's mind did not think of what it meant to the cause that Jesus had died, she had no

interest in the Kingdom as the disciples did in the breaking of the Roman yoke. She was (interested) in the fellowship and

the love and the communion and His death had interrupted that fellowship and Mary simply could not get her mind away from the

tomb. She loved Jesus and now Jesus was dead and Mary's love brought her back to the tomb early that morning. She knew

He that ~~she~~ had had a mock trial, she knew that He had never wronged a soul and that He was hated only because He was

pure and true.

Now that He was dead (was she again) to go back to the old life. No, a thousand times no. She would now live as if He

were with her always. Never the less there was the very real fear with Mary that if Jesus were dead and remained dead He could no longer deliver her from her present enemies, from evil within and without, and in that Mary was right. It is folly to think that anything but a resurrected living Christ can give deliverance from today. If Jesus remained in the tomb or if his body was stolen by anyone and did not rise from the dead then Christ ~~is~~ is not a deliverer. He has not defeated our great enemy and we have real reason for fear.

We know that (there are lines) which go "If I forget Gethsemane, If I forget thine agony, If I forget thy love to me, Lead me, O Lord, to Calvary." And so we would plead with Mary that we might be lead to Calvary.

We find here that Mary comes forward to visit the sepulchre and in her appeared the most affection in consideration of the great things that Christ had done for her. Must we ever ~~remember~~ remember that much was forgiven her therefore she loved much. Luke 8:2-3. It does not appear that she had any business now in Jerusalem but that she waited upon Him even as the ~~kingdom~~ Elisha did upon Elijah when he felt that he was taken from him ~~shortly~~ shortly. II Kings 2:1-6. Love for Christ if it is secure will be constant. Her love for Christ was strong as death, the death of the cross for it stood by that, cruel as the grave. ~~She~~ She came

to the sepulchre to wash the dead body with her tears for she went to the grave to weep there and to anoint it with ointment. The (grave) my friends, is a place that people do not ordinarily care to visit. Could she that had not strength enough to roll away the stone pretend to such a presence of mind as to enter the grave. The Jewish religion forbade them to meddle with any more than needs be with graves much less any bodies and in visiting Christ's grave she exposed herself and perhaps the disciples to the suspicion of the design to steal away his body.

She came (as soon as she could) for she came upon the first day of the week as soon as every the sabbath was gone longing not to sell corn as Amos 8:5 but to be at the grave those that love Christ will take the first opportunity of testifying ~~their~~ respect to Him. This was the (first Christian sabbath) and she began it here accordingly here with inquiries after Christ. She had spent the day before in meditation and thinking upon what He had done for her in the way of redeeming her.

She (came early) while it was yet dark so early did ~~she~~ she set out. Note, those who would seek Christ so as to find Him must seek Him early with such a care as even breaks the sleep, be up early for fear of missing Him. She thought Him industriously. We must deny ourselves and our own repose in pursuit of Christ, seek Him at all times in all

ask it were for our use. If the grave is a bed to the saint, thus He has prepared that grave and He has left the napkin for use by the mourners of the survivors that they might wipe away that tear.

V.7  
We see that the grave clothes were found in very good order and it serves as evidence that His body was not stolen because ~~robbers~~ robbers of the tomb would never taken place to lay aside the clothes and to leave them in order. They especially would have been interested in the fine linen since it was new and would have carried away with the body to have left these clothes in such order would require time and difficulty thus we see that it does away with the theory that His body was stolen and also with the theory that friends had removed Him from the grave for they would have taken the grave clothes along with them.

Verse 8. We find that John refers here to the other disciple he refers to himself that he saw and believed. Believed that Jesus was risen to life again. Dr. Bushnell laid this verse the text of a beautiful sermon on "the Power of Unconscious Influence." Peter said nothing to John probably thought nothing about influencing him yet by his example he lead John to enter the tomb and he saw and believed. That is to say ~~back~~ in the

own conduct in a cloudy or a dark day we shall stand amazed in our dullness and in our forgetfulness that we could miss such thoughts as after appear obvious and how they could be so far out of the way when we had occasion for them. She suggested they have xtaken away the Lord, even the chief priests have taken Him away. Joseph and Nicodemus have upon second thought perhaps. And there was great vexation and disturbance to her that the body was gone.

The weak believers often make that the matter of their complaint which is really just ground of hope and matter of joy. We cry out that this and the other creature comfort are taken away and we know not how to retrieve them. We have had removed ~~from~~ some temporal comforts and they have disappeared and we lament over them.

What a narra tive she made of it to Peter and John. She did not stand pouring out her grief but the communication of sorrow is one good improvement of the communion of saints. And Peter though he had denied his Lord had not deserted his Master's friends.

In verse 3-4, we find Peter and John going with all speed ~~to~~ going to the sepulchre to satisfy themselves of the truth. Some think that the other disciples were with Peter and John at this time others think that Mary Magdalene told her story only to Peter and John and that the other women told theirs to the other disciples. Yet

none of them went to the sepulchre but Peter and John who were two of the first three of Jesus's disciples.

It is well when those that are more honored than others with the privileges of disciples are more active than others in the duty of disciples, more willing to take pains and run hazards in a good work. See here what use we should make of the experience of the observation of others. When Mary told them what she had seen they would not in this sense take her word but would go and see with their own eyes. (Do others) tell us of the comforts and benefits of ordinances and they try to encourage us to make a trial of them.

See how ready we should be to share with our friends in theirs and their fears. We should not grudge our pains, we take for the comforting of the weak and the followers of Jesus. See what haste we should make in a good work, and going on a good errand. They ran to the sepulchre.

See what a good thing it is to have good company in a good work. Ecclesiastes 4:9.

5, 6, and 7, we see here the inquiry yet we see what is curious to these two to look into the sepulchre. (John) (steoped down) and looked in and dear friends anytime that we would get knowledge of Christ we must have an humble heart and submit to the the authority of devine revelation. Yet He did

not go into the sepulchre. V. 6 (Peter) was more exact in his discovering and he took courage and went on down into the sepulchre. Peter venturing in teaches us ~~first~~ first that those in good earnest seek after Christ must not frighten themselves, that we are foolish fancies. (Second) that good Christians need not be afraid of the grave since Jesus Christ was laying in it and Job 12:14 we must be willing to go through the grave to Christ that way he went to his glory and so must we and Job 19:25.

There were some things that they found in the sepulchre. Christ had left the grave clothes behind Him and the clothes appeared as we are told because He arose to die no more and death was to have no more dominion over Him. Romans 6:9. We know that when (Lazarus) came out with his grave clothes on for he was to use them again, but Christ rising to an immortal life came out free from those encumbrances. We know too that He was to be clothed with the robes of glory therefore He laid aside those rags for those in heavenly paradise. For clothes other than those that were earthly sending as the (prophet) who dropped his mantle and left it upon earth. Once again we see when we arise from the grave of the dead of sin to a life of righteousness we must leave our grave clothes behind us and we must put off all our corruption.

Once again we see that (Christ left) those in the grave



His enemies distinctly understood this as they even at the cross suggest to Him that He had said that He would destroy the temple and build it up in three days. They wanted Him to prove that He was alive after they had killed Him. He knew that His enemies understood this because they took precautions to guard His body after it was buried that there might be no false claims and they put guards on it and we remember that the centurion in charge officially certifies this to Pilate. And He was buried and ~~him~~ a great stone was fixed at the tomb and it was sealed with a Roman seal and we know that on the 3rd day that He arose and came forth and all of this had been prophesied in the scriptures. He had reminded His followers of this and when they came and found the tomb empty it seems to be a contradiction to their minds as to all that Jesus meant. Verse 10. Then the disciples went away again unto their own homes. We know that they pursued their inquiry no further at this time. The disciples went away however much wiser to their own homes to their own lodgings and around about the city and into other places. We know that it is (difficult for good men) to work and to do God's work in the midst of difficult and hard times but at last they knew not what to do next nor what to make of what they had seen and therefore not having the courage to stay by the grave they resolved to go home and wait until God had revealed

resurrection of Jesus Christ as an accomplished fact.

Yet it seems that John got the start on Peter in believing Peter saw and wondered, Luke 24:12. But John saw and believed,

But (what was the reason) that they were so slow of heart to believe. In verse 9 we get the answer as to why they had not believed concerning the resurrection before. They knew not (the scripture) that He must again rise from the dead.

John was convinced by what he saw that His Master had risen from the dead and not by the testimony of scripture, you see.

If they had remembered the 10th verse of the (16th Psalm) "For thou wilt not <sup>leave</sup> believe my soul in Hell neither wilt thou suffer thine holy one to ~~see~~ <sup>see</sup> corruption." How different it would have been. They did not consider, they did not apply the scriptures that He must rise again from the dead.

They had (believed Him to be the Messiah.) He himself had often told them that according to the Old Testament scriptures He would rise again and yet how unapt were these disciples themselves at first to believe in the resurrection of Jesus. Their hopes were frustrated because of the strange things that were happening and what was the reason for their slowness to believe because as yet they knew not the scriptures.

This seems to be the evangelists acknowledgement of his own fault among the rest. This is exactly what John says. And yet there were glimpses of it in the Old Testament time and

time again. Jesus repeatedly in His lifetime predicted that He must suffer death and that He would rise again on the third day.

Jesus answered and said unto them destroy this body this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews 40 and 6 years was this temple in building and will thou raise it up in three days. But He spake of the temple of His body. John 2:18-22.

From this time began Jesus to show unto His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, suffer many things, of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and the third day be raised up. Matthew 16:21. Again He says I have power to lay it down and power to pick it up again. Matthew 20:17.

Verily, verily, I say unto you except a grain of wheat fall into the earth and die it abideth to itself and He goes on to talk ~~how~~ about how that it must come up and bear fruit. John 12:23-28.

He made His resurrection the first sign and proof of all His claims. Matthew 12:38-40. because He answered and said unto them, evil and adulterous generations seeking after a sign and there shall no sign be given it but the sign of Jonah the prophet for as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale so shall the Son of Man be three

days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Jesus instituted 2 perpetual ordinances one to commemorate His death, the other to commemorate His burial and His resurrection. For I receive the Lord that which also I delivered unto you that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread and when He had given thanks He brake it and said this is my body which is broken for you this do in remembrance of Me. In like manner also the cup after supper saying this cup is the new covenant in my blood. This do as often as you drink it in remembrance of Me for as oft as ye eat this bread and drink this cup ye proclaim the Lord's death till He come. I Corinthians 11:23-26. The other passage is Roman 6:3-5. Are ye ignorant that all who were baptised into Jesus Christ were baptised into His death, we were buried therefore with Him through baptism unto death that like as Christ was ~~resurrected~~ raised from the dead through the glory of the Father so we also might walk in newness of life, for if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection.

We remember too that the teachings of Jesus concerning that Lazarus and always His disciples understood His teachings concerning his death and the resurrection time. Matthew 26:12.

unto them what to do.

It is possible that the rest of the disciples were together to them they returned to make a report of what they had discovered and to consult with them what was to be done. In their group as they went we know that Mary of Magdali went and as she went my dear friends what a blessedness of a life which has nothing to forget. Since she had been saved she had truly followed Jesus Christ. And we note

the satisfaction of the life ~~which~~ whose ~~sole~~ passion is the love of Jesus. We know that our heart will shortly witness something that will give her the comfort and the satisfaction that she yearned for. *The curtain had been drawn! What is beyond the empty tomb?*

*a child once ask, "What is beyond the sunset?" The answer is, "There is another world!"*  
And we know that God will display to her something that eyes

I have not seen nor ears heard nor has it entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for them that love Him. And God has revealed them to them unto us by His spirit. The Holy Ghost was waiting and hungering

to glorify Jesus in Men's eyes to talk of the things of God send his beckoning & instigations to prompt & encourage man's love of eternity. prepared heart.

What does the spirit tell us concerning this woman who loved Jesus? *Mary could not forget this - the your heart is true this unforgettable experience?*