

LISTENER GUIDE

An Encounter with Jesus

by Janet Parshall (True Woman '14)

Text: John 20:1–18

Who was Mary Magdalene?

- She is mentioned in all four _____ and is named more times than any other woman in the New Testament save for _____.
- We're given one detail about her background—Jesus removed _____ from her.
- After that, her desire was to follow Jesus. He had changed her life, and now she couldn't bear to be apart from the One who set her free.
- She was a _____ woman. Luke 8:2–3 tells us that Mary Magdalene helped fund Jesus' ministry.
- She left a town where she was important to follow Him.

Mary Magdalene loved Jesus. But did she really know who He was?

At the cross, Mary wept, because she didn't yet know who He really was.

She went to the tomb because she wanted to _____ her Lord one last time.

- She went to finish the preparation of the _____.
- She was willing to render herself _____ by touching an unclean body because she loved her Lord Jesus.
- Mary knew something wasn't right when she saw that the stone was taken away. She thinks since the stone is removed then His body was removed as well.
- She ran to Peter and John, and told them.

Mary goes back to the tomb, wailing from the depth of her being, and looks inside this time. That's when she sees two angels, who ask, "Why are you crying?"

- Mary didn't know that _____ had been conquered, that our _____ had been paid for.
- She should have been shouting with joy. She loved Him. But it's clear she didn't know Him.

Then someone else asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" She cried, "Sir, if you've carried Him away, tell me where you have put Him, and then I will get Him."

All her "why's" dissipated in one simple word—"Mary."

- _____ knew who Mary was even though Mary didn't yet fully know who _____ was.
- She recognized the voice of her _____. All it took was for Him to say her _____.
- For the first time, Mary understood who Jesus really was. He wasn't just a healer. He wasn't just a teacher and a master. He was the _____, the newly risen _____.

Mary's relationship with Him was going to be different from now on.

- She wasn't going to be able to cling to Him physically. But she would be deeply connected with Him through the power of the _____.

This is no distant deity. Here is Jesus establishing a new relationship that declares that we can know His God and His Father because Jesus had done what He came here to do. Now we have the opportunity to become part of His family.

Jesus reveals Himself as Christ for the first time to a _____. And now she's commissioned by Christ to go and tell others. Mary of Magdala goes from being a _____ to a _____ because of what Jesus Christ had done for her.

Jesus set Mary free from the bondage of demonic activity just as He can set us free from whatever bondage is in our life.

- She is the absolute perfect picture of what it means to be full, free, and fruitful in Christ Jesus. But she had to know who He was first.

You may know a good deal about Christ by a kind of head knowledge. You may know who He is, where He was born, and what He did. You may know His miracles and sayings, how He lived and suffered and died.

But unless you know the power of Christ's cross by experience, unless you know and feel within that the blood shed on that cross has washed away your own particular sins, Christ will profit you nothing. Unless you are willing to confess that your salvation depends entirely on the work that Christ did on that cross, He will profit you nothing.

LISTENER GUIDE – ANSWER KEY

An Encounter with Jesus

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Text: John 20:1–18

Who was Mary Magdalene?

- She is mentioned in all four gospels and is named more times than any other woman in the New Testament save for Jesus' mother.
- We're given one detail about her background—Jesus removed seven demons from her.
- After that, her desire was to follow Jesus. He had changed her life, and now she couldn't bear to be apart from the One who set her free.
- She was a financially successful woman. Luke 8:2–3 tells us that Mary Magdalene helped fund Jesus' ministry.
- She left a town where she was important to follow Him.

Mary Magdalene loved Jesus. But did she really know who He was?

At the cross, Mary wept, because she didn't yet know who He really was.

She went to the tomb because she wanted to serve her Lord one last time.

- She went to finish the preparation of the body.
- She was willing to render herself unclean by touching an unclean body because she loved her Lord Jesus.
- Mary knew something wasn't right when she saw that the stone was taken away. She thinks since the stone is removed then His body was removed as well.
- She ran to Peter and John, and told them.

Mary goes back to the tomb, wailing from the depth of her being, and looks inside this time. That's when she sees two angels, who ask, "Why are you crying?"

- Mary didn't know that death had been conquered, that our sins had been paid for.
- She should have been shouting with joy. She loved Him. But it's clear she didn't know Him.

Then someone else asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" She cried, "Sir, if you've carried Him away, tell me where you have put Him, and then I will get Him."

All her "why's" dissipated in one simple word—"Mary."

- Jesus knew who Mary was even though Mary didn't yet fully know who Jesus was.
- She recognized the voice of her Shepherd. All it took was for Him to say her name.
- For the first time, Mary understood who Jesus really was. He wasn't just a healer. He wasn't just a teacher and a master. He was the Messiah, the newly risen Christ.

Mary's relationship with Him was going to be different from now on.

- She wasn't going to be able to cling to Him physically. But she would be deeply connected with Him through the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is no distant deity. Here is Jesus establishing a new relationship that declares that we can know His God and His Father because Jesus had done what He came here to do. Now we have the opportunity to become part of His family.

Jesus reveals Himself as Christ for the first time to a woman. And now she's commissioned by Christ to go and tell others. Mary of Magdala goes from being a man woman to a missionary because of what Jesus Christ had done for her.

Jesus set Mary free from the bondage of demonic activity just as He can set us free from whatever bondage is in our life.

- She is the absolute perfect picture of what it means to be full, free, and fruitful in Christ Jesus. But she had to know who He was first.

You may know a good deal about Christ by a kind of head knowledge. You may know who He is, where He was born, and what He did. You may know His miracles and sayings, how He lived and suffered and died.

But unless you know the power of Christ's cross by experience, unless you know and feel within that the blood shed on that cross has washed away your own particular sins, Christ will profit you nothing. Unless you are willing to confess that your salvation depends entirely on the work that Christ did on that cross, He will profit you nothing.