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A Biographical Study of Mary Magdalene

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Mary Magdalene

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. Events before the cross
 - A. Mary's salvation—She had seven demons cast from her by the Savior (Mark 16:9; Luke 8:2).
 - B. Mary's service—After her conversion, she contributed to the support of Jesus and his disciples (Luke 8:2-3).
- II. Events at the cross
 - A. The presence of Mary—She was present during the crucifixion of Jesus (Mark 15:40; John 19:25).
 - B. The preparation by Mary—She helped prepare the body of Jesus for burial (Matt. 27:56, 61; Mark 15:46-47).
- III. Events after the cross
 - A. Her trip to the tomb—"And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him" (Mark 16:1).
 - B. Her testimony about the tomb—"The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the LORD out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him" (John 20:1-2).
 - C. Her tears at the tomb—"But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping; and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my LORD, and I know not where they have laid him" (John 20:11-13).
 1. Mary's terror—"And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away" (John 20:14-15).
 2. Mary's ecstasy—"Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father,

and your Father; and to my God, and your God. Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the LORD, and that he had spoken these things unto her" (John 20:16-18).

STATISTICS

First mention: Matthew 27:56

Final mention: John 20:18

Meaning of her name: "Bitter"

Frequency of her name: Referred to 15 times

Biblical books mentioning her: Four books (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

Important fact about her life: She was a woman who had been demon-possessed but became a believer and the first person to see the resurrected Christ.