“Twelve Extraordinary Women – How God shaped women of the Bible and what He wants to do with you” --Reviewing our study

**MARY MAGDALENE: DELIVERED FROM DARKNESS** --Chapter 10

***DARKNESS…DELIVERANCE…DISCIPLESHIP…DISASTER…DAYBREAK...*** and a few more “**D’s**” (I discovered in this chapter!) mixed into Pastor MacArthur’s five existing subheadings, distinguishes for us the life of Mary Magdalene and demonstrates for us the power of the Gospel!

We have learned in this chapter that Mary Magdalene’s name appears in all four of the gospels and is “mostly connected with the events of Jesus’ crucifixion.” More note worthy though, she distinctly directs us to His wondrous and glorious resurrection! No resurrection means no redemption! YES to the resurrection means YES to the saving of our souls, to the sanctifying of our spirits and to the raising up of our bodies and spirits to eternal glory! Because He lives, we live! Because He lives, we will live with Him and worship HIM forever!

There was one morning in Mary Magdalene’s life that would drastically change her existence forever and every morning after that! Have you ever had a morning like that? We must see that every morning is the dawning of new *discoveries* of our life with Christ as we live by faith! (Gal. 2:20) With every ‘**D’** **DISCOVERY** that we will review again about Mary Magdalene, I want us to plan how we too can *rise up* every morning and *discover* how Christ, our risen Lord should affect every area of our lives because we are ‘risen with Him’ (Romans 6:1-23)! Oh, that we would *be attentive to SEE HIM* at work in us and all around us!

**DISCREDITED** stories…along with many “fanciful legends,” “blasphemous suggestions,” and “frivolous speculations” “borrowed from ancient cults” have long been attached to Mary Magdalene’s name. *(pg.172)*

*Ladies, let us rise up every morning and discover “His grace is there for us to draw upon when others discredit our name” –let’s be attentive to SEE HIM at work!*

**DEVILISH** fantasies must “not allow this truly remarkable woman to get lost in the fog” of deception *(pg.173)*

*Ladies, let us rise up every morning and discover “His protection is there for us when we’re maligned for our faith” –let’s be attentive to SEE HIM at work!*

**DELIBERATELY**…”Scripture *deliberately* draws a curtain of silence over much of her life and personal background, (“and the details of her dreadful demon-possession” *pg.175*) ***but she still emerges as one of the prominent women of the New Testament***.” *(pg.171)*

*Ladies, let us rise up every morning and discover “His love is there for us to courageously reach out to those with the hope of the gospel who have dark and dreadful pasts ” –let’s be attentive to SEE HIM at work!*

**DISTINGUISHED**…”She was called “Magdalene” in order to *distinguish* her from the other women named Mary in the New Testament.” *(pg 173)*

*Ladies, let us rise up every morning and discover “His call distinguishes us to follow in His steps” –let’s be attentive to SEE HIM at work!*

**DARKNESS** and misery…”Mary Magdalene did have a*dark* past.” Mark 16:9

*Ladies, let us rise up every morning and discover “His command is there for us to focus on Him, not on others or our past” –let’s be attentive to SEE HIM at work!*

**DEMONIC POSSESSION** in the N.T. “involves bondage to an evil spirit—a real, personal, fallen spirit-creature—that indwells the afflicted individual” and is described anywhere from deliberate mutilation, physical infirmities: blindness, deafness, fits and seizures, to insanity. *(pg.174)*

*Ladies, let us rise up every morning and discover “His Holy Spirit is there in us to help us grow and change to be more like Christ” –let’s be attentive to SEE HIM work!*

**DEMONIC AFFLICTIONS**…”She (Mary) was a prisoner of *demonic afflictions*. These undoubtedly included: depression, anxiety, unhappiness, loneliness, self-loathing, shame, fear, and a host of other similar miseries…demoniacs were identified as friendless, restless, joyless and hopeless…” *(pg175)*

*Ladies, let us rise up every morning and discover “His joy, His peace, His hope is there for us to know as we ask of Him and abide in Him” –let’s be attentive to SEE HIM work!*

**DEMENTED**…”She might well have been so *demented* as to be regarded by most people as an unrecoverable lunatic.” *(pg.175)*

*Ladies, let us rise up every morning and discover “His kindness is there for us and leads us to repentance and restores us to a right mind and right relationship with Him and others” –let’s be attentive to SEE HIM work!*

**BUT—“*CHRIST SOVEREIGNLY DREW and DELIVERED*** multitudes who were possessed by demons…instantaneous and complete.” *(pg.176)*

*Ladies, let us rise up every morning and discover “His desire for us is to remember that He drew us to Himself and delivered us from “Satan’s grip” –let’s be attentive to SEE HIM work!*

**DELIVERANCE**…”Mary Magdalene was possessed by seven demons. How and when she was *delivered* is never spelled out for us, ***BUT CHRIST SET HER FREE***, and she was free indeed. (Lk.8:2) Having been set free from demons and from sin, she became a slave of righteousness (Rom. 6:18). Her life was not merely reformed; it was utterly transformed.” *(pg.176)*

*Ladies, let us rise up every morning and discover “His transforming gospel is there for us to free us from the power and penalty of sin, and to motivate heart obedience to our new Master”—let’s be attentive to SEE HIM at work!*

**DRAMATIC REDEMPTION**…”God removed her and rescued her from the dominion of darkness into His kingdom of light” (2 Peter 2:9; 2 Co. 4:6)

*Ladies, let us rise up every morning and discover “His care is there for us and His authority is over us to lead us and guide us into the way of Truth” –let’s be attentive to SEE HIM at work!*

**“*CHRIST HAD DELIVERED HER*”** from seven demons *(pg.175)*

**“*CHRIST’S GOODNESS AND GRACE*** was towards her” *(pg.175)*

**“*CHRIST’S GRACIOUS POWER IS MAGNIFIED***” *(pg.176)*

**CHRIST “*JESUS ALWAYS DISPELS THE DARKNESS OF SIN AND ITS GUILT, SHAME, AND TORMENT WITH THE LIGHT OF HIS LOVE AND TRUTH*.”** *(pg.139 workbook)*

**“*CHRIST TRANSFORMED HER LIFE*!”** (Isaiah 64:6; Jeremiah 13:23)

*Ladies, let us rise up every morning and discover “His powerful proclamations are there for us to see who He is, what He has done, and what He promises to continue to do in us” let’s be attentive to SEE HIM at work!*

**DISCIPLESHIP**…”Mary Magdalene joined the close circle of *disciples* who traveled with Jesus on His long journeys.” Luke 8:1-3 *(pg. 177)*

*Ladies, let us rise up every morning and discover “His strength is there for us to serve others joyfully and sacrificially” –let’s be attentive to SEE HIM work!*

**DEVOTION**… “These were godly women who *devoted* their whole lives to spiritual things.” *(pg.178)* When opposition towards Jesus grew, Mary was there. “When others became offended with His sayings, she stayed by His side. When others walked no longer with Him, *she remained faithful*.” *(pg.179)*

*Ladies, let us rise up every morning and discover “His grace and faithfulness draws us away from the world and helps us to ‘set our minds on things above’” –let’s be attentive to SEE HIM at work!*

***“CHRIST ENCOURAGED MEN AND WOMEN ALIKE TO TAKE HIS YOKE AND LEARN FROM HIM.”*** *(pg.178)*

*Ladies, let us rise up every morning and discover “His gospel is there for us to remove the guilt and shame of our sin and cause us to hunger and thirst for righteousness” –let’s be attentive to SEE Him at work!*

**DISASTER**…”Mary ended up loyally following Him to the cross…and was present at His crucifixion…could not bear to watch—could not bear to leave…remained until the bitter end…in a crowd of bloodthirsty fanatics screaming for the death of their beloved Lord…nothing to do but watch, pray and grieve. It must have seemed the greatest possible *disaster*, to have the One whom they loved and trusted above all torn from their midst so violently.” *(pg.179)*

*Ladies, let us rise up every morning and discover “His divine comfort is there for us in the midst of pain and grief causing us to trust Him more fully” –let’s be attentive to SEE HIM at work!*

**DEATH AND DETERMINATION**…”…loyalty and love for Christ looked on to see where He was laid…she was *determined* to wash, anoint and prepare His body with burial spices before the Sabbath began.” (Mk.15:47; 16: 1; Lk.23:55-56) *(pg.180-181)*

*Ladies, let us rise up every morning and discover “His abundant mercies are there to remind us to daily surrender ourselves completely to Him” –let’s be attentive to SEE HIM at work!*

**DAYBREAK**…”…she was the first to reach His tomb at *daybreak* on the first day of the week…she thought she was coming to the tomb for one final expression of love to her Master---to whom she knew she owed everything.” *(pg.181)*

*Ladies, let us rise up every morning and discover “His presence is there for us to not lose heart and grow weary knowing He will enable us to persevere in and through all things according to the ‘power of His Spirit that works within us’”—let’s be attentive to SEE HIM at work!*

**DRAMATIC EVENTS…AND THE DAWNING OF A NEW DAY…**”The apostle John, himself an eyewitness to some of the *dramatic events* of that morning, gives the best description…still dark…she saw the stone had been taken away…she thought Jesus’ body was stolen…stunned…she ran to tell Simon Peter and John…soon as they arrived…stooped to look in…saw the state of the linen cloths…Saviour is gone…stepped away to their own homes…struck with grief and loss, Mary wept outside of the tomb…stooped to look in…saw and spoke to two angels…she turned around and SAW JESUS…supposing Him to be the gardener…speaking her name, she immediately recognized Him” (John 20:1-16)

*Ladies, let us rise up every morning and discover “His sovereignty is ruling over us and controlling every detail of our lives”—let’s be attentive to SEE HIM at work!*

**DISTINCTION**…”She [Mary] has the eternal *distinction* of being the first person to whom Christ revealed Himself after the resurrection.” (Mark 16:9) *(pg.171)*

*Ladies, let us rise up every morning and discover “His revelation of His plans and His purposes for us are there in His living Word to seek out and live out distinct lives for the glory of His great name”—let’s be attentive to SEE HIM at work!*

There are so many wonderful things that we have learned about Mary Magdalene! Truly, she “**was a living** **example of how Christ’s deliverance and forgiveness prompts great love**.” *(pg.201)* But more importantly we must remember that this chapter also highlights the main event of our Christian faith and that is-- Jesus Christ is risen! *And because He is risen, we are risen in Him!* (Romans 6:4-5) Because He lives, we live! Because He lives, we will live with Him and worship Him forever! This profound declaration and reality for us as His children should deepen our love for others and for our risen Saviour. It should also motivate and inspire us to live holy and hopeful lives, causing us to *rise up* every morning and *discover* that “He who began a good work in us will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Phil.1:6)

Ladies, *let’s be attentive to SEE HIM at work* in us and all around us! Let our hearts be filled with gratitude knowing that His grace will raise us up each day and help us to respond to our ‘risen Lord’ “without hesitation but with great optimism and joy!” To Him be the glory as we continue to become women of ‘LIVING FAITH’ by God’s glorious grace and assistance!

Oh “that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection…” (Phil.3:10)

Joyfully, Christyn