



Road Trip: On the Road with Jesus in Galilee

Week 18: **Women Who Followed Jesus** (Luke 8:1-3)

The Text:

¹ Soon afterward Jesus began a tour of the nearby towns and villages, preaching and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom of God. He took his twelve disciples with him, ² along with some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases. Among them were Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons; ³ Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's business manager; Susanna; and many others who were contributing from their own resources to support Jesus and his disciples. (Luke 8:1–3 NLT-SE)

- When last we met...

- Jesus **forgives** a “sinful woman.” Somewhere in the days preceding the dinner at the Simon the Pharisee’s house this woman had an encounter with Jesus. We don’t know exactly what happened, but what we do know is the end result. Jesus forgave her sins, “and their were many!”
- Her response of **gratitude**...
 - ³⁶ One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat. ³⁷ When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. ³⁸ Then **she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them.** (Luke 7:36–38 NLT-SE)
 - ⁴³ Jesus said. ⁴⁴ “**LOOK AT THIS WOMAN KNEELING HERE.** When I entered your home, you didn’t offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You didn’t greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume. (Luke 7:43–46 NLT-SE)
- The **news** of this encounter traveled throughout the region...
 - ¹ Soon afterward Jesus began a tour of the nearby towns and villages, **preaching** and **announcing** the Good News about the Kingdom of God. He took his twelve disciples with him, ² **along with some women** who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases. (Luke 8:1–2 NLT-SE)
 - As Jesus was traveling around evangelizing, who was with Him? Our text tells us that the 12 were with Him, and also some women. Now, we know who the 12 were, and we’ve already looked at them closely in a previous sermon. Let’s focus in this morning on these women that are mentioned.

- An “Open Door” for Women

- It seems likely that the encounter Jesus had with the “sinful woman” opened the door for other women who had heard about it or perhaps even seen it, come to Jesus to be set free as well.
- There are 3 women who are mentioned here by name: **Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna.** The text also tells us that there were many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means. *The phrase “many*

others” is in the feminine gender in Greek, letting us know that these others were other unnamed women. Here Luke lets us in on a very important detail – there were many women disciples of the Lord, who followed Him around, as well as male disciples.

- **Mary Magdalene**

- **Mary** was being harassed by seven demons who undoubtedly ravaged her life.
- Try to imagine what life would have been like for Mary...
 - We see a man who was **demon possessed in Mark 5**. He lived in the tombs, appearing to have superhuman strength. He was constantly screaming night and day and gnashing himself with stones, running around naked. By all accounts, this man appears to be insane.
 - **In Matthew 17 we read of a man who was demonized**, often falling into the fire and into the water. His father told Jesus his son was a lunatic.
 - After Jesus cast out the demons from the young man in Gadarene (Matt 8:28), he appeared clothed and in his right mind, as a normal person.
 - Now, can you imagine the misery that Mary Magdalene lived in as she was **tormented day after day with 7 demons?** Perhaps she had tried to kill herself many times, but was never successful. Perhaps she was continually screaming out. Perhaps others thought that she was just insane. Her life must have been a living hell.
- “The moment Jesus' compassionate eyes saw the wild-eyed and cringing woman of Magdala, He saw in her the ministering angel who would be a blessing to His own heart and to others. In His authoritative voice He commanded the tormenting demons to come out—and stay out—of her and the miracle happened. Her deranged and nerve-racked mind became as tranquil as the troubled lake Jesus calmed. Sanity returned, the rosy tint was restored to her cheeks, and she was made whole. **Now, “clothed and in her right mind,” she was ready to become one of the most devoted woman disciples of Him to whom she owed so much.** That she was deeply grateful for physical and mental healing is shown by what she endeavored to do for her Deliverer and His cause...When Christ saved her, He liberated the highest virtues of **sacrifice, fortitude and courage.**” ~ All The Women of the Bible, Zondervan
- **Joanna**, the wife of Chuza
 - **Joanna was the wife of Chuza who was Herod's steward.** Here we have a true disciple of Jesus living within the palace! Joanna's husband was the man who was in charge of all of the King's business affairs. No doubt Chuza was a very wealthy man, who lived in luxury in the palace. But now, that Jesus had set her free from oppression and disease, she had no other goal but to simply follow Him and serve Him..
 - Not only did these women endure the hardships of following Jesus, but they also scorn and slander of others. To see a group of men and women traveling from village to village probably turned a few heads. Can you imagine the gossip that must have surrounded Joanna back in Herod's Court? **Yet, these women were so captivated by Christ that they were willing to endure the sarcasm, and innuendos and gossip of others, as long as they could stay close to their Rabbi.**
- **Susanna**
 - We know more about Mary Magdalene than we do about Joanna. And we know more about Joanna than we do about Susanna. In fact, this is the only place in the entire Bible that Susanna's name is mentioned. All we really know about Susanna was that she was a faithful, devoted servant of Jesus Christ.

- The **gratitude** of these women **opens a significant door** which **leads to a major historical shift**. When the Lord delivered Mary Magdalene her life would never be the same. She was transformed completely into a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. The same is true of Joanna and Susanna, whether they were possessed of demons or had severe diseases. The Lord either delivered or healed them, and they became zealous followers of Christ.

- It was not a woman who betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.
- It was not a woman who denied the Lord three times.
- It was not women who forsook Him and fled.
- It was women who stood by Him at the cross to the last.
- It was women who bought with their own money the spices to anoint His body.
- It was women who were the first to be at the tomb.
- It was women who were the first to announce that He was risen!



- **The ever-changing group called, “Followers of Jesus”**
 - **The Apostles...**Those who call Jesus **Lord** (Master, Ruler, One with ultimate power, authority and influence)
 - **The Disciples...**Those who call Jesus **Rabbi** (Jewish Religious Teacher)
 - **The Multitude...**Those who call Jesus **Messiah** (The Promised Deliverer)
- **What would the Apostles have thought about the role women played as followers of Jesus?**
 - What would have **challenged them**?
 - These women had a valuable role.
 - They also had a voice in the group and they used it.
 - What would have **stirred them**?
 - The women weren’t afraid of danger, they were willing to take risks, just like the men.
 - The women were openly grateful for everything Jesus had done for them.
 - What would have made them **love and trust Jesus** even more?
 - Jesus didn’t seem to see the things that divide (race, gender, station, etc.), but fixed his attention on the things that bind us all together (the Father’s love for us, the destiny we have in Him, etc.).