



what if what happened then  
changes everything now?



*the easter experience*

## *A Busy Sermon*

First it needs to give you the “correct” answer to the question “What should I do with this Jesus?”

Dismissed by the Roman Soldiers

Rejected by His Own People

Tortured Out of Ignorance

Deserted by His Disciples

Undecided from the  
Bystanders

Accepted by a Criminal



## *A Busy Sermon*

Second, I need to give you a sermon that ties in with Easter

Next I need to bring in our theme of Living Faith

Finally I want to build a bridge to  
our next sermon series



*Picking the Right Answer Starts with  
Picking the Right Character*

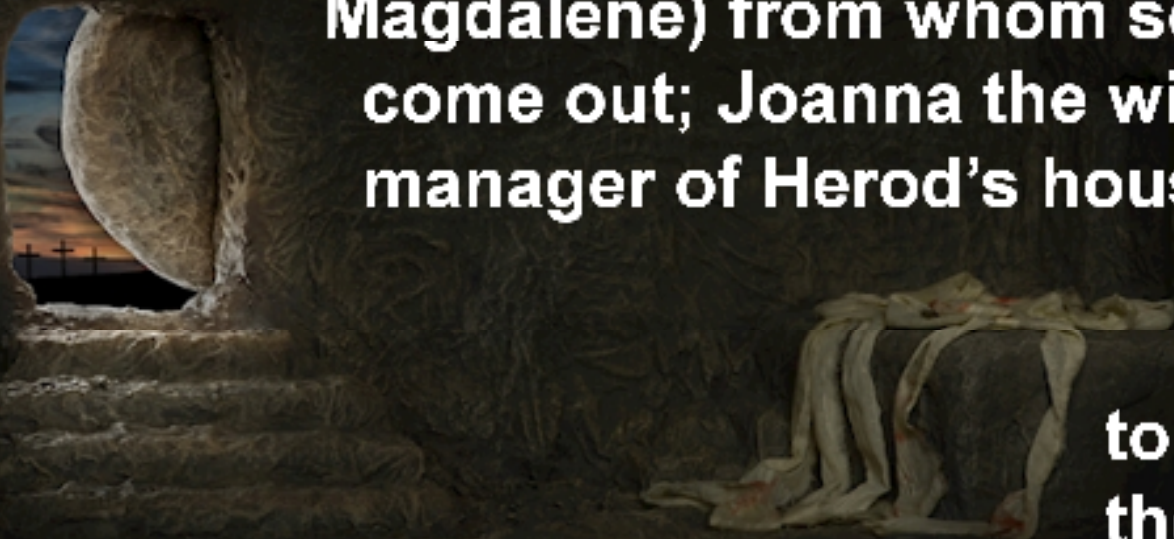
Who Fits the Bill?

**Mary Magdalene**



## *How She Met Jesus (Luke 8:1-3)*

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

A photograph of an empty tomb. A large, smooth, light-colored stone is rolled away from the entrance of a dark, hollowed-out rock chamber. Inside the chamber, several white, folded cloths or shrouds are visible on the floor. The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from the opening of the tomb, creating a dramatic and somber atmosphere.

## *First to Experience Our Risen Lord*

When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons.

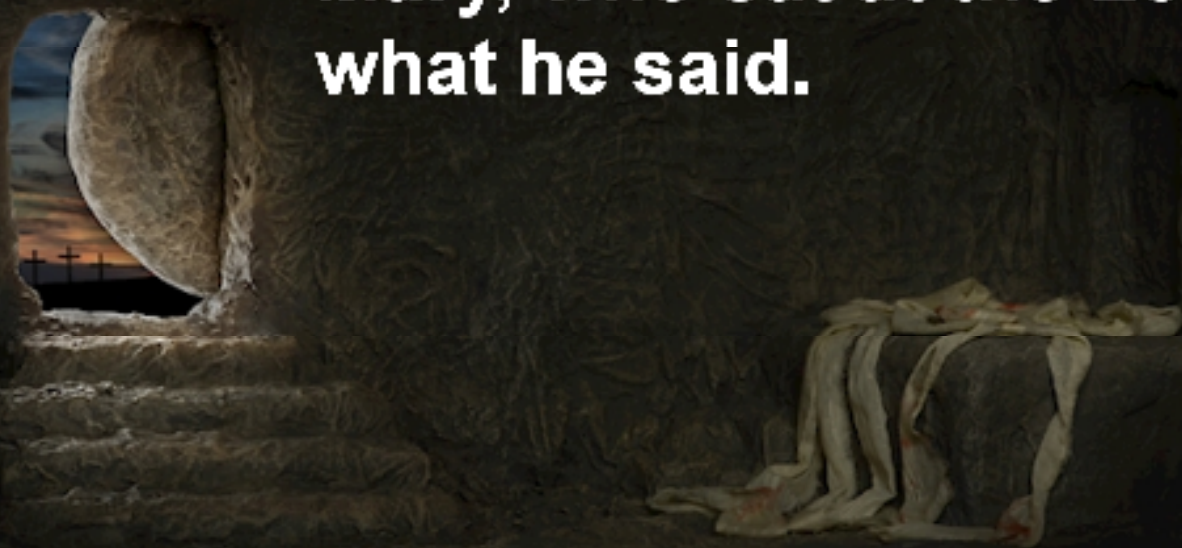
Mark 16:9

She answer the question  
“What do I do with this Jesus?”  
not once, but 6 times during her Life



## *Dismissed Replaced by Focus (Luke 10:38-39)*

**As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.**



## *Dismissed Replaced by Focus (Luke 10:38-39)*

Sitting at the feet of Jesus; what an awesome characteristic

Know there were lots of distractions

If you are got to answer the question correctly,  
You are going to have to make Jesus the focus!





## *Rejected Replaced by Trusted (John 11:28-32)*

Martha was actually the first to confront Jesus  
when he showed up late for Lazarus

After her and Jesus talk she calls Mary

It would have been so easy for Mary  
to be mad at Jesus

**WHY?**



## *Rejected Replaced by Trusted (John 11:28-32)*

**Humility -- She fell at his feet**

**She acknowledged both his power  
and her lack of understanding**

**“Lord, if you had been here, my brother  
would not have died.”**

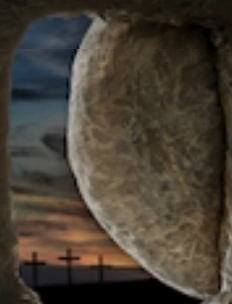
**When things got hard Mary moved toward  
Jesus not away**

**If you are going to answer this question correctly,  
you are going to have some trust!**



## *Tortured Replaced by Anointed (John 12:1-3)*

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.



## *Tortured Replaced by Anointed (John 12:1-3)*

Once again Mary is where she should not be

Once again she is doing what some feels  
she should not be doing (John 12:4)

Once again Jesus tells them, leave her alone  
(John 12:7-8)



## *Tortured Replaced by Anointed (John 12:1-3)*

Mary had just receive a gift of having  
her brother brought back to life

### Mary's Response

Personal --- She wiped his feet with her hair

Extravagant --- Mary took about a pint of pure  
nard, an expensive perfume

Lavish -- She poured it on Jesus



## *Tortured Replaced by Anointed (John 12:1-3)*

Jesus mentions her gift being appropriate  
due to his pending death

That was never Mary's intent, she want  
to publicly show her devotion the Jesus

If we are going to answer the question  
correctly will need to demonstrate that devotion



## *Deserted Replaced by Accompanied – The Cross*

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.



## *Deserted Replaced by Accompanied – The Grave*

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the

tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.





## *Deserted Replaced by Accompanied*

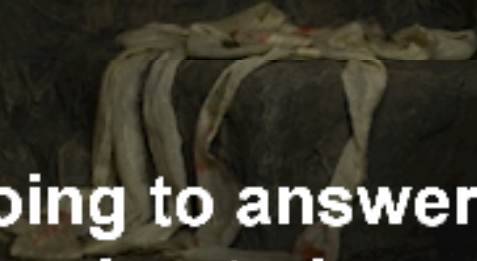
**What More is There to Say?**

**While most were running away Mary  
and the other women were running toward**

**While others were hiding there were going**

**She accompanied him to the cross,  
to the grave and beyond**

**If you are going to answer the question correctly,  
you are going to have to stay the course!**



## *Undecided Replaced by Embraced (John 20:15-17)*

At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"



## *Undecided Replaced by Embraced (John 20:15-17)*

Remember I mentioned Mary was the first to see  
the risen Jesus, here is the account

It seems that after their Easter Experience  
the other lady's scattered

Mary lags behind trying to make sense of it

When she does realize who he is, her first  
instinct is to reach  
for him

**Is that yours?**



*Undecided Replaced by Embraced (John 20:15-17)*

**Now that we are coming face to face with another Jesus moment, to answer the question correctly we have to decide**



## *Accepted Replaced by Shared (John 20:18)*

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.

Luke 24:9-11



# *Accepted Replaced by Shared (John 20:18)*

**Let's Focus on Mary**

**Before the Great Commission**

**Before Act 1:8**

**She was the first person to get  
the personal message go and tell**

**Don't hold so tight to me**

**Go and tell!**



## *Accepted Replaced by Shared (John 20:18)*

**Accepting what you see is great,  
telling what you know that's Living faith**

**And if we are going to answer  
the question correctly,  
we have to be willing to share it!**



*What should I do with this Jesus?*

What's the correct answer?

Go and Tell and She went and Told

How did Mary answer the question?


**Follow Him!**








Is that Your Answer?



what if what happened then  
changes everything now?



*the easter experience*