

November 26, 2017 AM  
Pastor Ken Hepner

**JOHN'S GOSPEL: JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD:  
79. "The Risen Lord Jesus and Mary Magdalene"  
John 20:10 – 18**

**Introduction:**

We are studying John's Gospel. The goal of our study is to take an in-depth look at who Jesus really is, His life, His teachings, His **Finished Work for us all on the Cross**, as He purchased our salvation, paid the penalty of our sins, **Death!** But the story of Jesus only begins at the Cross. The Father showed His acceptance of Jesus' death for us by raising Jesus to life again by the power of God to the glory of the Father!

Once this was accomplished there was full and free forgiveness of sins, guilt, shame, transgressions, and iniquities, leanings to certain sins. **When we truly believe in Jesus, we make the Cross Personal:** My sins, guilt, shame, and iniquities were in Jesus when He died for me. When we meet the risen Jesus, His Holy Spirit comes to live in our lives and He makes our spirit that was dead in sins alive to God in Christ Jesus!

We left off of the narrative last week with Jesus' death and what happened immediately after He died! There is gloom and sorrow and weeping everywhere you turn. These three days from Friday afternoon to Sunday in the early morning are some of the longest days these followers of Jesus have ever spent in their lives. They had experienced their dreams about who Jesus was completely destroyed as Jesus died on the Cross!

It is really striking to me that two of the big three disciples: Peter and John went to the tomb after they heard Mary's words about his body being gone. They ran there as fast as their feet would carry them. When they got there all they saw was an empty tomb, John arriving there first, then Peter arrived. Let's listen in on the story as John tells it to us.

*John 20:4 – 9 "Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally, the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)"*

What the Lord has laid on my heart to share with you today is the essence of what the resurrection of Jesus made available to each of us who choose to believe in Him and receive Him as Savior and Lord. Jesus is the Son of God who came to this earth specifically to make it possible for human beings to relate meaningfully with God. Jesus' act on our behalf is the most magnificent thing that has ever been done for us. **Jesus Died for the Sins of the world on**

## **Friday but was Raised from the dead in Victory over sin, death, and all the powers of hell on Sunday.**

### **I. Back to the Garden and the Creation of Man and Woman:**

In order to really understand what the Bible teaches us about our need of a Redeemer, Jesus our Savior, we have to go back to the Garden of Eden and the creation of Adam and Eve. In order for us to see what is so special about the creation of human beings, I want to look at this story from the viewpoint of angelic beings.

Before God created Adam, everything he created was good. God created the physical and the visible. The plant and animal kingdoms came from the mind and heart of God. God created things that walked, ran, flew, swam, and slithered and declared it to be good. When God acted on the sixth day to create Adam, the angels held their breath when they saw what God was fashioning, because this was a being that resembled God. He stood over the inanimate creature made of the earth, and breathed in his nostrils the breath of life.

To the angels' astonishment, there before them in the visible was one created in the image of God, and Adam's spirit glowed within. God had fashioned one like Himself, a spiritual being that had been given the ability to commune and fellowship with God. Being had created being, and Spirit had begotten spirit! God created one who was fashioned to be with Him in the eternal realms, there was something of Adam, his spirit, which was created to be at home in heaven!

But there was one thing the God looked upon in this creation and declared not good. He saw the incredible longing in the heart of man for his other, his kind. The animals were always two. The lion had the lioness, the deer his doe, but for the man there was no other. The man could feel love but the only place for him to give it was to God.

Adam yearned for his other, the one who would complete him. So God took the man and put him in a deep and dreadful sleep. The angels gasped as God took part of the man out of his side, bone of his bone, flesh of his flesh, spirit of his spirit and fashioned the most magnificent creature the angels had ever seen.

When God stood over her, and breathed into her nostrils the breath of life, Eve began to live and she, like Adam glowed with spirit. When Adam saw his other, he was overwhelmed with awe and joy, for she was in him, she was taken out of him, and she was like him, a spirit being who was able to commune and love. The two of them walked in fellowship with God! God saw all that He had made and concluded that it was very good.

The two of them lived in love in their garden paradise. They had but one law, one thing on the do not do list. There was tree in the midst of the garden called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God had made it very clear that they were not to eat of that tree. Genesis 2:17 *"you must not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."*

The serpent came and cast doubt in Eve's mind about the whole death from eating of the tree command of God. *"You will not surely die,"* the serpent hissed. *"Your eyes will be opened and*

*you will be like God, knowing good and evil.*” You will make your own ways and your own standards of right and wrong! Eve listened to the serpent at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, she ate from the tree and surely enough she didn’t fall over dead. And she gave some to Adam and he ate along with her and he didn’t fall over dead either.

But the angels gasped and grieved because something did die in Adam and Eve that day. Their spirits died; they stopped glowing with spiritual life. The part of them that was created for heaven, to be like God, and the ability to have spirit to spirit communication was now gray, lifeless, dead, and for the first time in time humankind hid from God in fear of being with Him!

And so it is today. From the time of Adam and Eve until this very morning, the part of all of us that was created for heaven, to be like God, the spiritual part of all of our hearts and souls, our spirit, lies cold, gray, and lifeless. The part that the angels see as glowing and alive in spirituality is dead. Here is how the Bible puts it:

Ezekiel 18:20 *“The soul that sins is the one who will die.”*

Ephesians 2:1 *“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.”*

Romans 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Colossians 2:13 *“When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.”*

To enable us to see this truth about our spirit being dead in sins, I want to show you what Jesus did for a woman who was in dire need of a redeemer, someone to come to her rescue. Her name is Mary of Magdala.

## **II. When Jesus Met Mary of Magdala**

Historical records teach us that life had not been kind to Mary of Magdala. She was a woman of incredible pain and her soul was full of guilt, shame, and bent to wickedness from the depths of sins she had committed with men too numerous to count anymore. The Scriptures give us one verse that gives us a glimpse of what her life was like before she met Jesus for the very first time.

Luke 8:1b, 2 *“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;”*

Have you ever thought of what a woman would have to do to herself in order for seven demons to actually take up residence in her, come to rule her, and keep her in their bondage? Have you ever thought about what a woman would look like and act like in whom raged seven demons? Wickedness brimming from her eyes, the earmarks of sins innumerable on her body, rage on the edge of her damaged soul, and a spiritual battle taking place within her life every minute of every day, would take quite a toll on one’s physical appearance.

But when she met Jesus for the first time in her life she found a man who looked past what she had done, saw her need, and did something about it. Jesus saw a soul darkened by sin and in need of redemption. He saw her human spirit deep within her, cold, gray, lifeless, and dead in sin. Jesus was moved in deep and holy love for her, not the kind of love that motivates a man to take from a woman. Jesus reached to her with compassion and grace!

He saw the evil spirits in her life and attacked them, drove them from her, and gave her life back to her again. She was forgiven for her previous life, and cleansed of offenses committed! She could now decide how she would live for the rest of her life. It took about half of a second for her to decide she would invest her life in serving Jesus, no matter what it would cost her.

Many scholars believe that Mary is the sinful woman in Luke 7, who intruded on Simon the Pharisee's meal where Jesus was the guest of honor. Too many of the stuffy religiously minded people seemed to completely miss the fact that Mary, the streetwalker, looked and acted very differently!

Instead of the snarling, surly personality, the wild-eyed crazy look, she was serene and peaceful, and she headed straight for Jesus her Redeemer. She came in and washed Jesus' feet with her tears and dried them with her hair, then anointed his feet with an alabaster perfume. His words to Mary were so absolutely beautiful and so freeing: *"Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you; go in peace."*

Mary's response to Jesus as is spoken by her life was, "I am forgiven and I have peace in my soul for the first time in years, but I will never leave you, ever!" From that moment forward, everywhere Jesus went, if you looked closely enough, you could see Mary in the background doing something to care for His needs.

It was this incredible love for Jesus that brought Mary to the tomb that day, because she had not had the time or the opportunity to prepare his body for burial! Come to the tomb with the angels and me now and watch with us what is about to happen.

### **III. When Mary Magdalene Met the Risen Lord Jesus**

*"Mary stood outside the tomb crying, ... They (the angels) asked her, 'Woman why are you crying?' 'They have taken my Lord away,' she said, 'and I don't know where they have put him.'"*

John 20:14 – 18 *"At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. 'Woman,' he said, '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 returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' 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."*

As a bewildered woman who loved simply Jesus stepped out of the tomb, Jesus raised His hands and motioned for the angels to look at the woman closely. He allowed them to look into her inmost being and there they could see her spirit, the part of her that was created for heaven, which could commune with God, lay cold, gray, lifeless, and dead because of sins. She was free of the demons, but she was not yet filled with His life. She needed a second work of His grace!

Then Jesus reached into His wounded side and pulled something of His life out and began to move toward the girl. The angels looked at one another with awe and realized that on the cross three days earlier Jesus had taken into Himself all of Adam's descendents, the sins, guilt, transgressions, and shame of all humans who ever lived, demonic realms and beings were put to death in Him, and last of all death was put to death in Christ Jesus.

One angel looked at another as what was about to happen began to unfold to his understanding. Jesus is Lord over death, He is resurrection life, and Jesus has the power and the authority to give life to what was dead, including the spirit that was dead in transgressions and sins. Think of it he gasped, what has been dead for thousands of years, since the fall of Adam, the spirit created for heaven, may live again, a new creation.

As Jesus moved toward her and called her name this marvelous woman fell at His feet and clung to Him. **He spoke to her and told her something that had never been heard before by a sinful human being.** *"I am returning to my God and your God Mary, to my Father and your Father Mary!"* For the first time on planet earth, in a human being who had done much to offend God, as the angels stood around her in awe and wonder they watched as her spirit being came alive, and she became the daughter of the Most High God, Abba Father.

Jesus took His life, essence of His essence, being of His being, Spirit of His Spirit, and placed them in a human soul and the spirit of Mary pulsed with life. What is so tremendously powerful for us to behold is the person who first experienced His Spirit moving in her spirit, making her alive to His life, was the former sinful woman Mary of Magdalene, now daughter of the Most High God!

The angels gasped, they sang, they worshipped, and they began to celebrate the absolute joy of redemption. They marveled and praised God as they saw a spirit glow for the first time since Adam and Eve fell and experienced spiritual death. It is reported by some that the angelic beings almost got beside themselves with joy!

#### **IV. The Old Creation Died In Jesus and A New Creation Is Begun**

The Bible is very clear that the most powerful, life-changing event in history is what Jesus Christ our Lord did for us when He went to the cross and gave His life as a ransom for us all. In His death He put to death for all of us everything of the old – **the Old Creation**, the old human ways, religious rites, holy days, sins, the sinful nature's power, the enemy's ability to control us anymore, and finally death was put to death in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Oh yes, I almost forgot, there is one other thing that was put to death that day – you and me. We all were also in Christ Jesus that day. For each one of us His death is our personal death to sin, and even more freeing to us, the penalty of our sins, which was death.

But the fact is that Jesus did not stay dead. He rose from the dead with power to give life to what or who was dead. The power of God that was released into the dead body of Jesus, caused incredible things to happen on the earth. The Bible records that there was an earthquake around the tomb of Jesus. Actually the former corpse in the tomb was the source of the earthquake as the power of God burst forth into Jesus and He rose victorious over sin, death, and all the powers of hell.

The Bible teaches us that in His life we have life, real life, the power to live above sin and victory over death and all of the enemy's ways! In Jesus you and I are given life. **The part of us that was Created to be at home in heaven, our Spirits that were Dead in Sins are Alive in Christ!** We have been made alive unto God in Christ Jesus!

Listen with your heart as we read Scriptures that tell us the magnificent truth: What Jesus did for us all in His death on the Cross and by His resurrection life, creates new life in you and me!

II Corinthians 5:17 – 21 *“Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation**; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: That God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, **not counting men's sins against them**. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore, Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on God's behalf: Be reconciled to God. **God made him who had no sin to be sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**”*

Ephesians 2:1 – 5 *“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions** – it is by grace you have been saved.”*

II Peter 1:3, 4 *“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them, **you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.**”*

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**JOHN'S GOSPEL, JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD:**

**79. "The Risen Lord Jesus and Mary Magdalene"**

John 20:1 – 18

**Introduction:**

We are studying the Gospel of John. It is the story of Jesus, His life, teaching, and **F**\_\_\_\_\_ work on the **C**\_\_\_\_\_. Jesus paid the penalty for our "wages of sin," His **D**\_\_\_\_\_!

Jesus makes available to us full and free forgiveness. When we truly believe in Jesus we make the **C**\_\_\_\_\_ **P**\_\_\_\_\_!

We left off the narrative of John last week with what happened when Jesus died and immediately after His death for us all on the Cross!

When they heard Mary's testimony about Jesus' body being gone, two of the "Big Three" went to the tomb as fast as they could get there. The story is in John 20:4 – 9.

The message today is about our personal application of the truth Jesus makes available to us all by His death and resurrection!

On Friday Jesus **D**\_\_\_\_\_ for the **S**\_\_\_\_\_ of all human beings, but on Sunday He was **R**\_\_\_\_\_ from the dead in **V**\_\_\_\_\_ over sin, death, and Hell's powers, for all who believe Him and receive Him!

**I. In The Garden and the Creation of Adam and Eve:**

To truly understand our need of a **R**\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus, we have to go back to the Garden of Eden and see how Adam and Eve were created.

The angels were astonished that one in the image of God was created, whose spirit glowed with life from God!

But Adam was alone and his heart yearned for his other, she who would **C**\_\_\_\_\_ Him, His other: Eve who when created would like Adam, glow with life from God.

They had just one law ... Genesis 2:17

The serpent twisted God's words and Eve ate, and gave some to Adam who was with her and he ate. Something in them did **D**\_\_\_\_\_ that day, their **S**\_\_\_\_\_ were now dead in sins. ... And so it is today! Ezekiel 18:20, Ephesians 2:1, Romans 6:23, Colossians 2:13

**II. When Jesus Met Mary Magdalene:**

The truth is life had not been kind to Mary of Magdala. She was full of guilt, shame, bent to evil, when she met Jesus! Luke 8:1b, 2

What does a person have to do to have seven demons L\_\_\_\_\_ in, R\_\_\_\_\_, and hold in B\_\_\_\_\_? But then she met Jesus!

Many scholars believe Mary is the “sinful woman” who wept on His feet in Luke 7. Most people missed the obvious change in Mary’s countenance!

“*Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you. Go in peace!*” Mary’s response is spoken by her life. “I am forgiven and I have peace but I will N\_\_\_\_\_ L\_\_\_\_\_ you, ever!”

### **III. When Mary Magdalene Met the Risen Lord Jesus: John 20:14 – 18**

The bewildered Mary stepped out of the tomb. Jesus saw her soul, and her spirit that lay dead, cold, and lifeless in sins.

Jesus reached into her and put His life in her spirit. For the first time since creation a human being’s spirit was alive to God again!

The heavenly realms realized that because Jesus had taken into Himself the D\_\_\_\_\_ Adam and Eve introduced, He as Risen Lord Jesus had the authority and the power to grant life to W\_\_\_\_\_ W\_\_\_\_\_ D\_\_\_\_\_!

Jesus spoke to Mary something that human beings had not heard since the Garden: “*I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God!*”

Jesus took His life, His Spirit and put that new life in Mary’s heart, soul, and spirit-being!

### **IV. The Old Creation Died in Jesus and a New Creation has Begun!**

In His death for us all on the Cross Jesus our Redeemer put to death everything that was of the O\_\_\_\_\_ C\_\_\_\_\_!

The truth is you and I were also in Jesus the day He died. He died our death, the wages of our sins. But Jesus did not stay D\_\_\_\_\_! The bible says the power of God touched the life and the body of His One and Only Son Jesus and raised Him to life again with power over sin, death, and Hell.

The part of our humanity that can feel at home in heaven, our S\_\_\_\_\_, that were dead in sins, are now A\_\_\_\_\_ to God in Christ Jesus!

II Corinthians 5:17 – 21; Ephesians 2:1 – 5; II Peter 1:3, 4



### Discussion Starter Questions for Home Groups

1. John wants the readers to know what happened after Jesus died for us. Why do you think he takes us to those moments of the Cross of Jesus so vividly?
2. Why do you think John tells us the story of him and Peter running to the tomb and trying to understand what the empty tomb meant?
3. John tells us Jesus was raised from the dead on Sunday morning. What is John trying to help us all to understand as he writes about those events of AD 33?
4. Why do you think John goes to such great lengths to make sure his readers know he was right there and saw the empty tomb of Jesus?
5. John tells us the bewildered and broken-hearted Mary of Magdala remained behind and encountered Jesus but didn't recognize Him. What reasons can you think of that Mary didn't know it was Jesus?
6. What is the one word Jesus spoke to Mary that awakened her to the fact that she was in the presence of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ?
7. What message do we receive from Mary's encounter with Jesus on that first resurrection morning?
8. Read together aloud Matthew 28:1 – 10 and Mark 16:1 – 9. What insights do you have and can share together as a group from these resurrection accounts?
9. Read together aloud Ephesians 2:1 – 10 and discuss insights you have from Paul's teaching on our personal identification with the life of the Risen Lord Jesus.
10. Is there anything about the account of the risen Lord Jesus that has impacted your heart and mind in a new way? Would you please share your thoughts with your Home Group members?