

## 2. Satisfaction of soul.

Mary had lived such a life after being free and after having met Jesus that she could state "I am satisfied with Jesus." This was a part of the blessing Her whole life before had been blank, but now since she has been freed, she is absorbed in the work of Jesus. She enjoys conversation about the master. She spends her time in service for him. All of the desires of her heart were fastened upon him.

Think of the unsatisfied soul among us. Think of the lives that are married, youth that are robbed. She found that Jesus could supply all needs, and the drudgery and the sorrow was faced with a peace and a satisfaction that only the passion of Jesus could give.

9. Her great reward was bound up in love. This was the greatest thing... her love for Jesus being poured out with an humble and a contrite heart was to be rewarded later on. As she stood by the cross with these other women, we cannot but think how early that morning when the city slept through the narrow streets, Jesus was led forth, a mob followed, and in that great company were women, weeping, some of them were hard working women, who carried their children in their arms or held them by the hand. Many of the noble daughters of Jerusalem followed along. And Mary was in this group.

Her poor mind had been freed and she was telling others of Jesus. She was always willing to serve him. She was ready to give of her means. As the time of his crucifixion drew nigh, she was there (standing by the cross) in silence, and then we see in the evening that she goes and takes her place by the tomb and then after a sleepless night, she is back at the sepulchre again, and later we hear her say, "They have taken away my Lord" and I know not where they have laid him." And then we come to see her great reward as she stands in the garden and there one appears. And she recognizes that it is Jesus. What a great reward of love. She was the first to look into the face of the risen Son of God, and then to go off to the city and tell the message "The Lord is risen indeed." Love is always rewarded and as Mary, we too shall have the privilege of looking into his face. And as Paul says, "The greatest of these is love, and love never fails." And the reward of love is that we shall look into the face of Jesus.

## MARY MAGDALENE (John 19:25)

Intro: As we continue the scenes around the cross, we would like to think about a woman who stood by the cross and according to Luke 23:27, she was in the group of women that followed Jesus to the cross.

### I. Mary's early life

Luke 8:2

We do not know a great deal about her early life, but Luke tells us in one or two sentences that she was possessed of evil spirits. In fact, she was declared to have had seven devils, or demons. She lived in a town close to the sea of Galilee. Her name distinguishes her from the other Mary's listed in the New Testament. We have reason to believe that she was born into a good family, and that her family had money to share in the work of Jesus. The fact that she had been possessed of seven devils and then had been healed leads us to know that she was dedicated to Jesus. Somehow I do not believe that she was a real sinful woman, but that quite on the contrary, she was a good woman. Some people have identified her as the woman who was a sinner and who kissed the feet of Jesus. But as we read the story of this sinful woman, and the story of Mary Magdalene, we come to believe that she was a real devout follower of Jesus.

I suppose some people associate Mary Magdalene with this sinful woman in order to exhibit a great trophy of grace. Even today, some people feel that this is the way to draw a crowd... get a shameful sinner who's been converted, let him parade his vices... but it seems to me that this woman was not such, but that she had been possessed of these evil spirits, and now she had been set free.

### II. The concern of Jesus for Mary Magdalene

#### 1. Spiritual concern

I think Jesus had spiritual concern for womanhood. Only on one or two occasions, did he use any strong words at all in speaking to a woman... once in speaking to his mother at the marriage feast, and another time in speaking to Martha about needless worry over his comforts. As a rule Jesus had words of peace. Elizabeth is portrayed in the gospels as a great soul. Mary is also spoken of as a holy woman. Anna was mentioned as a great prophet.