

Women in the Bible @ Fairfield

Mary Magdalene

(Luke 8:1-3; John 20:1-18)

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Mary Magdalene in the NT

- Her name — Magdala
- Luke 8:1-3: 7 demons, with Jesus
- Witness to cross and burial
- One of first witnesses to empty tomb
- First to see risen Christ (John 20)
- First in lists of women

Implications

- Supporting God's work
- Faithfulness of women at cross
- First witnesses to resurrection
- Mary as "apostle to the apostles"
- Countercultural (as shepherds)
- Men were dismissive (Luke 24:10f)

The Composite Magdalene

- Gregory the Great (591)
- Magdalene = Mary of Bethany = anonymous sinner (Luke 7:36-50)
- Mary as repentant prostitute
- "Seven demons" = 7 deadly sins
- Patroness of "wayward women"

The Fantasy Magdalene

- Four Gospels vs. Apocryphal
- Later + "Gnostic"
- "Gospel of Mary"
- "Gospel of Philip"
- "Gospel of Thomas"
- Dan Brown: Leonardo's Last Supper

Concluding Lessons

- Magdalene a significant figure
- A faithful witness to the gospel
- A favoured counter cultural role
- Not Jesus' lover or wife
- Not rival to the twelve apostles