



Called

HEARING AND RESPONDING TO GOD'S VOICE

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Mary of Magdala

THE UNNAMED APOSTLE

Based on your biblical
knowledge:

Why would Rev. Robb select
Mary Magdalene as an
example of being
called to do God's work?



Mary Magdalene Approaching the Tomb.
Gian Girolamo Savoldo, 1535-40.

Why is there confusion about Mary Magdalene?

- ▶ Several Marys noted in the Bible:
 - ▶ Jesus' mother
 - ▶ Mary Magdalene from the Galilee
 - ▶ Unnamed woman in Luke who washes Jesus' feet and dries them with her hair
 - ▶ Mary of Bethany, mentioned in Gospel of John, who also washes Jesus' feet; the sister of Martha.
 - ▶ Mary of Clopas, present at the crucifixion.
- ▶ 6th Century (c. 591)– Pope Gregory I conflated the Marys into one:
 - ▶ “She whom Luke calls the sinful woman, whom John calls Mary, we believe to be the Mary from whom seven devils were ejected according to Mark.”
- ▶ 7 devils were interpreted to mean vices...
- ▶ Mary Magdalene became the patron saint of fallen women...
- ▶ Yet, **NO WHERE IN THE BIBLE IS SHE CALLED A PROSTITUTE!**

- ▶ Luke 8:1-3 (KJV)
- ▶ 1 And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him,
- ▶ 2 And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils,
- ▶ 3 And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.

The First Meeting of Christ and Mary Magdala. Henryk Hector Siemiradzki, 1873.



The Demons of Mary Magdalene



- ▶ John MacArthur (president of Masters University) in *Twelve Extraordinary Women* states,
- ▶ *“Satan tormented her with seven demons. There was nothing man or woman could do for her. She was a veritable prisoner of demonic difficulties. These undoubtedly included depression, anxiety, unhappiness, loneliness, self-loathing, she suffered even worse torments, too, such as blindness, deafness, insanity, or any of the other disorders commonly associated with victims of demonic possession....She would have been in perpetual agony...”*

THINK ABOUT:

Do you or did you ever feel unworthy
of God's call?

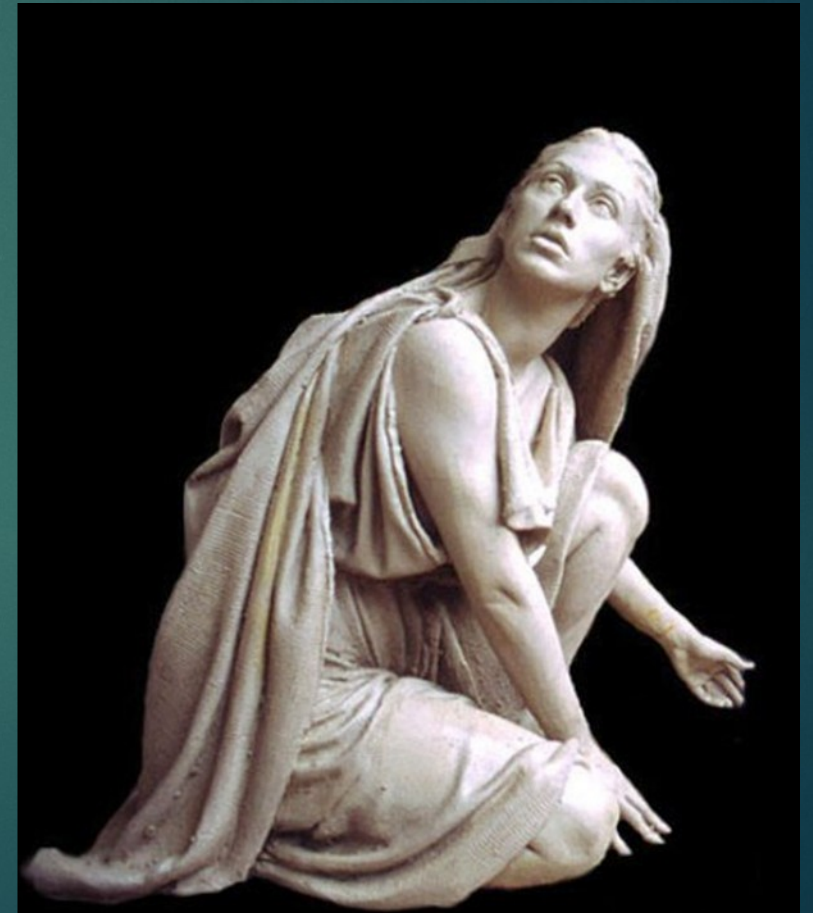


Penitent Magdalene, detail
of head only, Donatello,
1455.

THE APOSTLE TO THE APOSTLES

- ▶ *“Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned toward [Jesus] and cried out ‘Rabboni!’ in Aramaic (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** [apostellein in Greek], ‘I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ Mary of Magdala went to the disciples, with the news: ‘I have seen the Lord!’” —John 20:16–18*

‘Christ Appearing to Mary Magdalene at the Empty Tomb’, artist unknown



Upon seeing the Christ Mary Magdala immediately recognizes Him.

Why could she recognize the Christ and the disciples couldn't?



*Christ's Appearance to Mary Magdalene after the Resurrection.
Alexander Ivanov, 1835.*

He called her name...

- ▶ Mary is an example of a person who left everything to follow Jesus. She became a friend, travel companion, supporter, and disciple of Jesus.
- ▶ When the other disciples abandoned Jesus during his crucifixion, she stayed there, alongside Mary the Virgin.
- ▶ Her faith was steadfast when others doubted.
- ▶ “Saint Mary Magdalene is an example of true and authentic evangelization...” Archbishop Arthur Roche, 2016.


The Descent from the Cross.
Peter Paul Rubens, 1612-1614.



When we are called...

- ▶ It is never what we expect...
- ▶ We may not realize God's call at first...
- ▶ God deems us worthy...
- ▶ God...Jesus...will take us beyond *our* expectations...

When we answer our call we release our hold of fear and release the message of hope and love...

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- ▶ Dear Lord,
 - ▶ As Mary Magdalene came to you for forgiveness and learning, let us open our hearts to your love and your guidance.
 - ▶ Like Mary Magdalene, let us experience your miracle of love in all ways...in our joys and in our concerns.
 - ▶ May the grace of God lead us forth to rejoice in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
 - ▶ Amen