

Characters - Mary Magdalene -9th Oct

Defining moments

Common story's - before and after moments

Before I was like this, then some thing happened, now I am like this.

They are forever embedded into your memory - you remember them and who you were with, what you were doing - like man walking on the moon, the Berlin wall coming down, death of princess Di, the tsunami, September 11.



Luke 8:13 after this, Jesus travelled 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 Herold's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their means.

Mary is restored and delivered from 7 Demons.

John 19:25 near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mothers sister, Mary the wife of Clopas , and Mary Magdalene.

John 20:11-18 now Mary stood outside the Tom crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb "and saw two angles in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

"They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have out him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, by 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 towards 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 him, 'I am ascending 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 he had said these things to her.

When each of us has a personal encounter with Christ, we become first-hand witness to His power to save, rescue, heal and transform a life. So what is the only response that makes sense when we are part or a before and after story like this? If you have a before and after story like Mary's then your response should be like Mary's. You become a witness.

when you're a WITNESS to what christ has done...

What to witnesses in court do? They are called to testify. To tell the before and after story that were part of it.

1. Your Life will TESTIFY of His GOODNESS

Imagine the life of someone controlled by demons. That's a lot heavier topic that we normally like to think about. Think about the darkness, loneliness, and bondage she must have experienced. Jesus reached out to her and set her free. He showed compassion, mercy and goodness to a person most people would overlook or consider a lost cause.

2. Your life will TESTIFY of His POWER

Mary didn't have to tell her friends how she was before. They already knew. But she had to show them who she was now. She left her old lifestyle and basically used all of her resources to follow Jesus around and support His ministry.

Eg. Zacheus transformed of a greedy man to a generous man

3. You must share your STORY

Your story is something no one can take away from you. It's your story and it happened to you. No one could ever convince Mary that she was still her old "before" self. Her "after" self was proof of it. Your own before and after story is the absolute most powerful tool to share he love of God and the message of Christ with the world.

Doubters can't debate it. Skeptics can't refute it. Haters can't argue with it.

There is no one like you

1 Peter 3:15 In your hearts revere Christ as lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asked you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

Sometimes we miss opportunities because of fear as we might mess up the words or speak the wring words, timing off.

God can't use my silence - you do your bit and let God do the rest.

Even if you voice waivers, hands shaking, time off -God can use your effort and words

If you had been a witness to God's goodness and power, your only reasonable response to testify. No one can ever convince me that I'm still the same old "before" me. The "after" me standing here today is proof of it. If you've been a witness to Gods goodness and power, your before and after story can testify too.