

# *Mary Magdalene*

## Sources

This section is written to recognize that our sources of information that are the basis of our beliefs and world views must be traced back to an origin point that is either human in construct or Divinely inspired. There are many *inspiring* books. But one Divine volume of 66 books that claims to be *inspired*. 1 Timothy 3:16 says, “all scripture is given by inspiration of God”. This root Greek word for “inspiration” is θεόπνευστος which means literally “God breathed”.

We can categorize the sources as either “spurious” or “scriptural”.

### Spurious Sources:

The Gospel of Mary. The so-called gospel of Mary was discovered in Cairo, Egypt in the Akhmim Codex in 1896. In the only known copy of this text, ten entire pages are missing, including the first 6 pages. The gospel of Mary, was not written by Mary. It's gnostic teachings (heresy) contained within in it, date the gospel to the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D. at the earliest. Similar to the gospel of Thomas, Philip, Judas...the gospel of Mary is a Gnostic forgery, using the name of a biblical character in an attempt to give validity to heretical teachings. An article summarizing the error of Gnostic teachings is found here: <http://truthorfandom.com/2002/02/history-101-gnocchi-and-gnostics/>.

“Conspiracy theorists have contrived a conflict between patriarchal Christianity (exemplified by Peter) and “true” Christianity (exemplified by Mary). The Da Vinci Code (<http://www.betheleverett.org/the-top-ten-errors-found-in-the-da-vinci-code-2/>) takes this conspiracy theory to new heights by portraying the Christian church as covering up Jesus' relationship with Mary Magdalene and denying His appointment of Mary as the leader of the church. The problem with this conspiracy theory is that there is absolutely no evidence for it, not even in the gospel of Mary. The gospel of Mary nowhere states that Jesus appointed Mary as the leader of the Christian church. The gospel of Mary nowhere states that Jesus and Mary were romantically involved.” – Excerpt from “What is the Gospel of Mary?” - <https://www.gotquestions.org/gospel-of-Mary-Magdalene.html>.

### Scriptural Sources:

The name Mary occurs 54 times in 46 verses in the King James Version of the bible. There are 12 references to “Mary Magdalene” and 1 reference to “Mary, called Magdalene”.

Of the 54 references to a Mary, it has been suggested there are 6 different Mary's in scripture:

- 1) Mary, the mother of Jesus
- 2) Mary, sister of Lazarus
- 3) Mary, the wife of Clopas

- 4) Mary, mother of Mark
- 5) Mary, a roman Christian addressed in a greeting by Paul (Romans 16:6)
- 6) Mary Magdalene

The below is a meditation on the references to Mary Magdalene:

### *Mary's Deliverance*

Mary was come from Magdala, an ancient city located on the western shore of the Lake Galilee. The two references to Mary of interest that indicate her first contact with Christ are Luke 8:2 and Mark 16:9.

Luke 8:2 "and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities—Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons"

Mark 16:9 "Now when *He* rose early on the first *day* of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons."

Mary was a demon possessed woman, who the bible says was, after contact with Christ, "healed of evil spirits and infirmities". Christ exercised miraculous authority over disease, death, disaster, and here, demons.

We are not told exactly how Mary had opened herself to possession by spirits, however we are told the number of spirits that had indwelt her was 7. This indicates that a person can be possessed by multiple demons. In the same chapter there is an example of a man from Gadara who was possessed. In chapter 8 verse 30 Jesus asked him, "What is thy name? and he said, Legion, for WE are many".

A remarkable account of possession and exorcism is found in Acts 16:16-18. The individual received perceptive and predictive powers: divination/soothsaying.

This is the gravest of topics. Pull back the curtain into the spirit world and beware. Have I conjured the angelic or demonic? Have I contact with a "spirit" or THE Spirit of the Triune God and Father of Jesus Christ?

Satan is presented as Adversary, Accuser, and Angel of Light. He masquerades as light. He has mastered deception, and all things counterfeit.

The incarnate creator Immanuel, "God with Us" speaks and 7 spirits instantly obey his command. In her conversion experience of repentance and faith was indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

## *Mary's Duty*

Luke 8:2-3 indicates that in a response of gratitude and appreciation, Mary joined company with a number of other woman who had resources to support Christ's ministry. Says Luke 8:3, they "provided for him of their substance".

## *Mary's Devotion*

Mary was one "who loved much for she was forgiven much". Her liberation from possession and affliction brought from her heart love and devotion to Christ. She is seen at the crucifixion scene: Matthew 27:56, Mark 15:40, John 19:25. She witnessed the burial: Matthew 27:61, Mark 15:47. She discovers the resurrection had occurred: Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:1. She shares the news of his resurrection with the other distraught disciples: Luke 24:10.

It was Mary's yearning heart and devotion that caused her to linger at the empty tomb after the other disciples had left. This resulted in her encountering first the risen Christ, which leads us to the final point of consideration:

## *Mary's Distinction*

"But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping" John 20:11. The whole account is contained within verses 11-18. As Mary sobbed lingering at the tomb she encounters two angelic messengers, verse 12-13. Behind her approaching at this time is a man, who inquires why she is crying. In her sorrow and tears she does not recognize him, and mistakenly assumes he is the gardener/caretaker. Listen to her heart, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away." How could she have moved the body herself, her love doesn't recognize limitations, she would do anything. In that moment, with just a word from Christ, "Mary" his voice awakens her soul and she realizes she is in the presence of the resurrected Christ. She may have embraced him, he says, "do not cling to me" – he is soon to ascend to heaven with his redemptive work now accomplished. She is to return to the disciples and share these things.

It is Mark 16:9 that notes something so special. It was to Mary "FIRST" that he appeared. What? Not to apostle Peter? Or some other dignified apostle? How beautiful that Christ chooses to reward Mary's devotion and first appear to her in his glorified resurrection body. Forever enshrined within the pages of Holy Scripture this will be Mary's distinction.

