



September 20, 2026

"Women in Ministry with Jesus"

Luke 8:1-3

Introduction

A look at how women were treated in the first century Jewish, Greek, and Roman cultures

Roman:

- Male-dominated
- Women's worth defined by the male
- No political voice — they could not vote for example
- They could not own property
- With three or more children, they were granted independence from male guardianship
- If they did operate a business, they could secretly influence politics
- Otherwise, they had no voice

Greek:

- Discouraged from ever leaving the house
- Much like the Roman culture
- Perhaps best seen by Aristotle's quote:

"Women are naturally, physically, and intellectually inferior to men. They are incomplete and deficient to us."

Jewish:

- Limited proximity to the home

- Famous first century Jewish historian, Josephus: "Women are inferior in all ways to men."
- They could not be a witness in a trial
- They were separated from men in Temple worship
- They were discouraged from studying the Law of God
- Rabbinic prayer prayed daily by the rabbis: "God, I thank you I'm not a Gentile, a slave, or a woman."

This is why today's text is most remarkable. Jesus flips the script with God's view of women. Let's examine it together

Luke 8:1-3

1 Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, 2 and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, 3 and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.

Luke 8:1

"Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him,"

- Soon afterward, after the experience with the sinful woman in Simon's home (last week)
- Jesus begins his ministry to northern Galilee
- He goes through different cities and villages (some where he'd preached before?)
- Proclaiming (same word as "Behold!") — listen up!
 1. The good news (the gospel): God has left his throne in heaven and come to earth in Jesus the Messiah
 2. Of the kingdom of God: to bring his kingdom reign to earth
- The kingdom is the rule of God
- It's first established in the hearts of people here on earth
- Those who believe in Jesus as God's only Son and...
- Who believe in his life, death, and resurrection as absolute reality and truth

- Who now knows that we are loved, forgiven, not guilty, no shame, and have a new identity in Jesus...
- And then repents/total life change — **Matthew 4:17**

Matthew 4:17

"From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"

- Jesus now sits on the throne of my heart, reigning over my life
- Jesus's goal: everyone on earth believes this truth
- This kingdom is the focus of how Jesus's followers should pray: "Your kingdom come, your will be done; on earth as it is in heaven"
- It's the focus of how Jesus's followers should live: Every day, how can I help bring God's kingdom to earth?
- Which involves:
 - Sharing the gospel
 - Feeding the hungry
 - Healing the sick
 - Story of what a group of men did at breakfast this week
 - Why we are named Moments of Hope
 - Giving a cup of cold water to the thirsty (reward in heaven is great)
 - Choosing to love, not hate; to forgive, not be bitter; give others hope, not despair
 - Standing for truth
 - Speaking the truth in love
 - We are kingdom citizens in Jesus's radical kingdom on earth
- It's an already/not yet kingdom
- Jesus has come from heaven to begin it
- But it's not yet done — not yet fully realized
- One day, dear friends, one day: Jesus will return
- He will establish his kingdom on earth forever
- He will reign with an iron fist over HIS world
- From Israel...from Jerusalem...from the Temple Mount...from the Temple
- This was Jesus's message during his resurrection — **Acts 1:3**

- **Acts 1:3**

"He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God."

Continuing with **verse 1:**

- And the 12 were with him during this northern Galilean preaching tour
- Astonishingly, who else was with him?

Luke 8:2-3

"and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means."

- Who else was with Jesus on this northern Galilean tour?
- "And also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities"
- Women! Second class citizens in the cultures of the day
- Several are named:

1. **Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out**

- There are two kingdoms in this world: light and darkness
- Your king is either King Jesus or King Satan
- Not to have made a decision is to have made a decision
- Mary was from the city of Magdala, a small port town two miles from Capernaum
- She is NOT the sinful woman of **Luke 7:37** — Gregory the 1st in the 6th century concluded this but it's not true
- She is NOT the Mary of Bethany, Martha and Lazarus's sister
- She is a woman from whom Jesus had cast out seven demons
- Seven is the number of completion — she was completely delivered and healed by Jesus
- The Chosen's conjecture about Mary Magdalene:

- Mary loved and lost her dad at an early age who regularly quoted **Isaiah 43:1** to her
- Abused by a Roman soldier and others
- Name changed to Lilith, a Mesopotamian demon god
- This opened the door to demonic influence/oppression/possessions—seven altogether
- Jesus came to her, quoted **Isaiah 43:1**, changed her name/identity (from Lilith to Mary)
- No longer was her identity what happened to her
- Gave her forgiveness and a new identity as a child of God
- Again, this is conjecture, not Bible
- But we do know something happened to her that opened the door to demonic empowerment in her life
- Wounds from our past can open us up to demonic influences
- PTSD/trauma, abuse
- Like flies to an open wound...Beelzebub: lord of the flies
- Jesus poured grace on her and set her free from her demonic possession
- Out of gratitude, she devoted herself to following him forever
- Note too she was at the foot of the cross when Jesus died — **John 19:25**
- She was the first to whom Jesus appeared at the empty tomb — **Mark 16:9**
- She was the one Jesus told to go and tell the other men that he was alive!!!
- Jesus entrusted the first gospel witness of this resurrection to this woman, not men (a trial in Jesus's day!)

2. Joanna

- The wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager
- This was a very important position: the CPA for Herod's vast holdings
- Chuza possessed an important position in government influence
- As did his wife, Joanna, who had position, influence, power, and wealth

- Parenthetically, Jesus loves wealthy people too
- Perhaps Jesus also delivered her from demonic possession and/or...
- He healed her of some kind of illness
- Joanna also was with the women at the empty tomb —
Luke 24:10

3. **Susanna**

- The only time she is mentioned in Scripture
- Demonic deliverance? Healing of her body? Soul? Spirit?
- Some think she had financial means as well
- She represents the millions of women who have served Jesus faithfully through the centuries
- As missionaries...mothers...influencers...caregivers...financial supporters...medical personnel...prayers

4. **And many others (women — "others" is in the feminine in the Greek)**

- Provided for them (Jesus and his 12)
- Did so out of their means
- Financially and otherwise — they provided what was necessary for Jesus's ministry to operate
- Imagine the meals, planning, caring for the numbers
- These women kept the ministry running

Two applications:

1. **The striking influence of women in the early church:**

- In homes...Mary's home (the mother of John Mark) the hub of the early church... **Acts 12:12**
- Nympha's home in **Colossians 4:15**
- Priscilla with her husband Aquila's homes in both Corinth and Rome
- Lydia, the first European convert, offered her home in Philippi
- The four daughters of Philip prophesied
- Singleness in women was honored: orders of widows and daughters to serve the poor

- The list of women in **Romans 16** serving the Roman church is startling
- **Galatians 3:28**
"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."
- Equally called to martyrdom:
 - The story of Blandina
 - The story of Perpetua

Jesus flipped the script on the value and importance of women in the culture

Today, I want to honor all women who are faithfully following Jesus

2. **Jesus needs money to advance ministry**

- He could have supernaturally provided for himself
- That's not the way Jesus chose to fund his ministry needs
- Jesus received the financial gifts from ALL these women and his followers
- Who gave willingly
- Who gave generously

3. The same is true with us

The biblical model: God's leader asks God's people for God's resources

So far...

\$21 from a young boy a couple weeks ago

1. All
2. Willingly
3. Generously

A reminder:

MOHC's budget is separate

A Greater Glory

Our Future Home: God's will

My prayer today: Lord Jesus, your kingdom come. Lord Jesus, your will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.

Maranatha, come soon, Lord Jesus

Now to baptisms!