



**In Celebration of Women Disciples
Luke 8:1-3**

Let's celebrate Mary Magdalene.

Verses 1-2:

Text Message:

- o Here three women are mentioned by name as accompanying Jesus and "the twelve," as well as "many others" (Verse 8).
- o *Q: Why didn't Jesus have any female disciples?*
A: He did!
Q: Why were the twelve apostles all males?
A: The Gospels reveal Jesus as a new (or renewed) Israel with the apostles symbolizing the twelve tribes.
- o In another words, women were not chosen as part of the twelve not because of its symbolism, not because of their sex.
- o Mary Magdalene has suffered a bad rap, so let's see Mary for what she was: a dedicated follower of Jesus Christ:
 - 1) That Mary was a former prostitute was a later Western tradition, and never adopted by the Eastern Church.
 - 2) The Eastern Church had a tradition that Mary Magdalene preached the Gospel in Rome to Emperor Tiberius.
- o Mary supported and followed Jesus during His life and was a premier witness to His crucifixion, burial, and resurrection.
- o She has been dubbed "the apostle to the apostles" for her role

on Easter morning (*Saint Thomas Aquinas*).

Let's celebrate Joanna, wife of Chuza.

^{3a} and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager,

Text Message:

- o Next, we have Joanna, who like Mary Magdalene, was a financial supporter and follower of Jesus.
- o Joanna, too, is listed as an eyewitness of Christ's resurrection (Luke 24:10).
- o Yet she is wife to Herod Antipas' household manager, the same Herod who killed John the Baptist and would be a conspirator in the crucifixion of Christ (Acts 4:27).
- o Joanna is an example to us as a "kingdom risk taker" and showed primary loyalty to Christ:
 - 1) In her wealth, as seen in her support of Him (Verse 3).
 - 2) In her relationships. *We can only imagine if her following of Jesus was a sore spot in her marriage to Chuza.*
 - 3) In her allegiance to the kingdom of God over a kingdom of this world (Roman Empire).
- o Susanna's life asks us, "Who or what has your ultimate loyalty?" "Where will you side when loyalties clash?"

Let's celebrate Susanna.

^{3b} and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them^{3a} out of their means.

Text Message:

- o While only mentioned here, because Susanna appears without a descriptor indicates she was well-known in the early church.
- o Perhaps Susanna is a reminder to us that what we do know about her is what is most important for all of us: that she was **with** Jesus.
- o While these three women are named, "many others" [the Greek word for "others" here is feminine] indicates these were not the only women or that only a few women followed Jesus as disciples.

Which of these women stands out in example to you today?



**In Celebration of Women Disciples
Luke 8:1-3**

Let's celebrate Mary Magdalene.

Verses 1-2:

Text Message:

- o Here three women are mentioned by name as accompanying Jesus and "the twelve," as well as "many others" (Verse 8).
- o *Q: Why didn't Jesus have any female disciples?*
A: He did!
Q: Why were the twelve apostles all males?
A: The Gospels reveal Jesus as a new (or renewed) Israel with the apostles symbolizing the twelve tribes.
- o In another words, women were not chosen as part of the twelve not because of its symbolism, not because of their sex.
- o Mary Magdalene has suffered a bad rap, so let's see Mary for what she was: a dedicated follower of Jesus Christ:
 - 1) That Mary was a former prostitute was a later Western tradition, and never adopted by the Eastern Church.
 - 2) The Eastern Church had a tradition that Mary Magdalene preached the Gospel in Rome to Emperor Tiberius.
- o Mary supported and followed Jesus during His life and was a premier witness to His crucifixion, burial, and resurrection.
- o She has been dubbed "the apostle to the apostles" for her role

on Easter morning (*Saint Thomas Aquinas*).

Let's celebrate Joanna, wife of Chuza.

^{3a} and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager,

Text Message:

- o Next, we have Joanna, who like Mary Magdalene, was a financial supporter and follower of Jesus.
- o Joanna, too, is listed as an eyewitness of Christ's resurrection (Luke 24:10).
- o Yet she is wife to Herod Antipas' household manager, the same Herod who killed John the Baptist and would be a conspirator in the crucifixion of Christ (Acts 4:27).
- o Joanna is an example to us as a "kingdom risk taker" and showed primary loyalty to Christ:
 - 1) In her wealth, as seen in her support of Him (Verse 3).
 - 2) In her relationships. *We can only imagine if her following of Jesus was a sore spot in her marriage to Chuza.*
 - 3) In her allegiance to the kingdom of God over a kingdom of this world (Roman Empire).
- o Susanna's life asks us, "Who or what has your ultimate loyalty?" "Where will you side when loyalties clash?"

Let's celebrate Susanna.

^{3b} and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them^{3a} out of their means.

Text Message:

- o While only mentioned here, because Susanna appears without a descriptor indicates she was well-known in the early church.
- o Perhaps Susanna is a reminder to us that what we do know about her is what is most important for all of us: that she was **with** Jesus.
- o While these three women are named, "many others" [the Greek word for "others" here is feminine] indicates these were not the only women or that only a few women followed Jesus as disciples.

Which of these women stands out in example to you today?