



For Such a Time as This

A Bible Study on God's Call in Your Life

You can watch Pastor Andy's introduction to this story [here](#).

Mary Magdalene

“Mary was charged by the Risen Jesus to be the first Christian evangelist: not to hold onto Jesus and string out the glory of that extraordinary moment (as the apostles had earlier tried to do on the Mount of Transfiguration), but to go and share her story.

The idea of evangelism can be daunting, but in the Gospels it was very simple – just talking to someone else about the life that faith in Jesus can bring.

How might you help each other to take the fear out of faith-sharing, so as to make it joyous and accessible?” (<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/vocations/stories-calling>)

Read John 20:1-18:

20¹⁻² Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone was moved away from the entrance. She ran at once to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, gasping for breath. “They took the Master from the tomb. We don’t know where they’ve put him.”

³⁻¹⁰ Peter and the other disciple left immediately for the tomb. They ran, neck and neck. The other disciple got to the tomb first, outrunning Peter. Stooping to look in, he saw the pieces of linen cloth lying there, but he didn’t go in. Simon Peter arrived after him, entered the tomb, observed the linen cloths lying there, and the kerchief used to cover his head not lying with the linen cloths but separate, neatly folded by itself. Then the other disciple, the one who had gotten there first, went into the tomb, took one look at the evidence, and believed. No one yet knew from the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead. The disciples then went back home.

¹¹⁻¹³ But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she knelt to look into the tomb and saw two angels sitting there, dressed in white, one at the head, the other at the foot of where Jesus’ body had been laid. They said to her, “Woman, why do you weep?”

¹³⁻¹⁴ “They took my Master,” she said, “and I don’t know where they put him.” After she said this, she turned away and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn’t recognize him.

¹⁵ Jesus spoke to her, “Woman, why do you weep? Who are you looking for?”

She, thinking that he was the gardener, said, “Sir, if you took him, tell me where you put him so I can care for him.”

¹⁶ Jesus said, “Mary.”

Turning to face him, she said in Hebrew, “*Rabboni!*” meaning “Teacher!”

¹⁷ Jesus said, “Don’t cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go to my brothers and tell them, ‘I ascend to my Father and your Father, my God and your God.’”

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went, telling the news to the disciples: “I saw the Master!” And she told them everything he said to her. (*The Message Translation*).

- *Usually we read this portion of scripture on Easter morning. How do you hear it differently today?*
- *Mary Magdalene has been misunderstood by the church for generations. Have you ever been misunderstood? How do you deal with that?*
- *What is different about how Peter, John, and Mary respond when they reach the tomb? What might that say about them?*
- *Who do you most identify with in the story?*
- *When has there been a time you’ve been called to share important news with someone, good or bad?*
- *What particular gifts does Mary Magdalene seem to possess for sharing the good news?*

Prayer: *Lord, you call us by our names.*

Help us to be confident in our own unique identity. To find opportunities to develop our specific gifts and our passions.

Enable us to hear and recognize the call of Jesus in our lives, and those of others.

Help us to find appropriate and life-giving ways to spread your Good News in a way which draws others to you and helps them experience your radical and extraordinary love.

Amen.

(<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/vocations/stories-calling>)

You can read more about Mary Magdalene [here](#).