



# CENTRAL SHELBY CHURCH OF CHRIST

working and worshipping together to serve the Lord



*"Jesus answered and said to her,  
'Whoever drinks of this water will thirst  
again, but whoever drinks of the water that I  
shall give him will become in him a fountain of  
of water springing up into everlasting life.'" (John 4:13, 14)*

## SHE CLUNG TO THE LORD

When Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9). In her grief, she did not initially identify Him, but supposed Him to be the gardener. But when the risen Jesus called her by name -- "*Mary!*" -- she immediately recognized the Lord. Jesus said to her, "*Do not cling to Me, for I have not ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God'*" (John 20:11-17).

"*Do not cling to Me,*" Jesus said -- i.e. "Stop clinging to Me" (and so the NASB translates it). Delighted at seeing Jesus alive and perhaps fearful that He would disappear from her sight, Mary physically clung to the Lord. But she needed to stop, for Jesus would not ascend for yet another forty days, and He had further work for her to do.

Consider, however, that what Mary Magdalene did at this scene was merely illustrative of all her dealings with Jesus since she had come to know Him. Her spiritual activity is worthy of imitation.

### **She clung to Jesus in His ministry**

We are first introduced to Mary in the eighth chapter of Luke. She was one of several women "*who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities.*" As Jesus and His apostles went through several Galilean cities, Mary and her fellow-women went with them and helped by providing "*for Him from their substance*" (Luke 8:1-3). Evidently they continued to do this for quite some time (Matthew 27:55-56).

I must pause here to say an encouraging word specifically to my sisters in Christ, that there is much that you can do in the Lord's service, "*providing for Him*" -- and examples such as Mary Magdalene illustrate this very point (cf. Matthew 25:37-40; 1 Timothy 5:10). Read the 16th chapter of Romans sometime and see all the good to be done by the 'fairer sex.' Phoebe, Priscilla, Mary, Tryphena, Tryphosa, and Persis were all "*laborers in the Lord*" (vss. 1-6, 12). Too much thought is given by too many women today about "what God won't let me do." That's an important matter, but just as important is what you can and could and should do in the kingdom of the Lord.

### **She clung to Jesus at His death**

After traveling with the disciples through Galilee, Mary came to Jerusalem with them (Mark 15:40ff). Later, when Jesus was delivered to soldiers to be crucified, she was there. *"Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene"* (John 19:25). Even when Jesus died, she didn't want to let Him out of her sight. As the Lord's body was laid to rest and a stone was rolled against the door, she and "the other Mary" were *"sitting opposite the tomb"* (Matthew 27:61). Later she went home, her and the other women, and *"prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment"* (Luke 23:56). But then back again to the tomb she came early on the next day, and then (to her surprise) she was rewarded with seeing the risen Savior.

Mary clung to Jesus in life and in death, in times of certainty and uncertainty. We need to do the same, beloved, to hold fast to Him with all our might... To follow Him wherever He goes... To do for His cause what we can with what resources we have -- to be faithful. May we learn from the faith and activity of this godly woman, that we *"with purpose of heart"* might ourselves *"cleave unto the Lord"* (Acts 11:23, ASV).

--Mike Noble