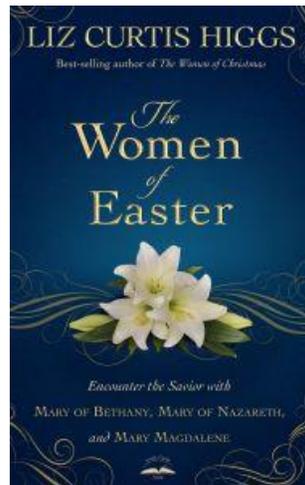


Word by Word with Liz Curtis Higgs on the Faith Radio Network

Bible Study Guide for March 31-April 1, 2018 | Mary Magdalene

from *The Women of Easter* by Liz Curtis Higgs



1. Mary Magdalene is introduced in Luke 8:1-4. Were you surprised to discover that, in addition to the twelve male disciples, numerous women also traveled with Jesus? What might the fact that they were “cured of evil spirits and diseases” (Luke 8:2) tell us about the women? And about their healer, Jesus? Some women were named—Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna—while “many others” (Luke 8:3) were not. Why might that be the case? What’s significant about Mary Magdalene being listed first, not only here but also in Matthew 27:56, Matthew 27:61, Matthew 28:1, Mark 15:40, Mark 15:47, Mark 16:1, and Luke 24:10? Finally, we’re told, “These women were helping to support them out of their own means” (Luke 8:4). What does that indicate about their relationship with Jesus?
2. We know from Matthew 27:55-56 that Mary Magdalene was among the women who watched Jesus’s excruciating death. Surely it must have been the longest six hours in Mary Magdalene’s life — and, far more, in His. How do you imagine Mary Magdalene spent those hours? Crying? Praying? Offering an encouraging word to the Christ? To the other women? If you have ever watched someone die, what emotions surface at such a sorrowful moment? Was there anything you said that made it easier for the dying person? Anything he or she said that made it easier for you? What is the role of one who stands by the dying, as Mary Magdalene did that Good Friday?
3. When He breathed His last, the women were still there. When His body was taken down from the cross, the women were still there. And when His body was laid in a tomb, Mary Magdalene and another Mary were still there, as we learn in Matthew 27:61. What significance might there be in the presence of the women and the apparent absence of the men throughout the Passion? Might Jesus have been honoring the women? Protecting the disciples? What does the prominence of women in the life, death, and resurrection of

Jesus mean to you? In what ways does their faithfulness challenge you to deepen your relationship with God?

4. According to Matthew 28:8, Mary Magdalene and the other women “hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.” Are you just as eager to talk to others about Jesus? What empowered these women to do so? Why is it sometimes hard for us? Would it be easier with a group of friends like this? How do you think they felt when the disciples didn’t believe them? And why didn’t the men believe what Mary Magdalene and company had seen—because the messengers were women, or because the men hadn’t seen any angelic evidence for themselves? Should worrying about how our message will be received stop us from sharing the Good News?
5. On her second visit to the tomb, when Mary Magdalene said, “they have taken my Lord away” (John 20:13), what “they” was she talking about, do you think? Who were the most likely suspects? Why would they have taken His body in the first place—and where? Were her fears grounded in truth, or merely in desperation? Why do you think Mary was neither frightened nor awed by the angels this time? When the Lord appeared, He began by calling her “Woman” (John 20:15) and then “Mary” (John 20:16). What is the significance of each form of address—for her then, and for us now?
6. What’s the most important lesson you learned from the story of Mary Magdalene, a woman who was willing to both lead and follow, with a boldness born of love for her Savior?