

New Hope, New Courage, New Future



NUNK Card by Ansgar Holmberg

MARY OF MAGDALA

Mary of Magdala (Magdala-a town on the western shore of the Lake of Galilee) was one of a group of women who followed Jesus from Galilee and took care of him from their own resources. She “from whom seven demons had gone out” had experienced deep healing and mercy from Jesus. She had experienced in Jesus the comforting and healing words of the prophet Isaiah, God’s word to Israel - “Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name, you are mine.” Is. 43:2

Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MN7CiQm7I5A>
Video (from *The Chosen*): What to do when we are scared? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCl3eV-v31Q>



Mary was one of a small group of women who stayed with Jesus throughout his crucifixion and death on a cross. She observed where Joseph Arimathea laid the body of Jesus and after the sabbath rest took her prepared spices to anoint Jesus’ body. Early in the morning of the first day of the week when she arrived at the tomb she noticed that the stone had been rolled away. A messenger (angel) was seated where Jesus had been laid. The angel invited her to enter to see for herself and then asked her to go and tell the disciples what she had seen. Mary left with great awe and joy, an apostle of the good news! On the way Mary met Jesus who told her: Do not be afraid; go tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.” Matthew 27:56-61, 28:1 -10

Mary was a true disciple of Jesus and apostle of the “good news of salvation.” When she told the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead she was not believed. How could such a woman have credibility? The disciples had to see for themselves before they believed!

Reflection:

Mary of Magdala, a woman in a male-dominated culture, a woman with a past who had no credibility, nor did she trust in herself. Yet, she remained faithful to the call that she received from Jesus to be his follower and disciple. She stayed close to Jesus to the end and was sent to proclaim the Christian message of hope and life to the world.

By our Baptism we live as disciples and apostles of the Good News. We live according to certain values, beliefs, assumptions and expectations in our life and ministry.

- What “Good News” have we been proclaiming with our lives?
- How do I/we continue into the future to be disciple and apostle of the “Good News” each day?

THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

I have come to drink from the well of Jacob

Song: Come to the Water:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EcxRvfTC2D8>

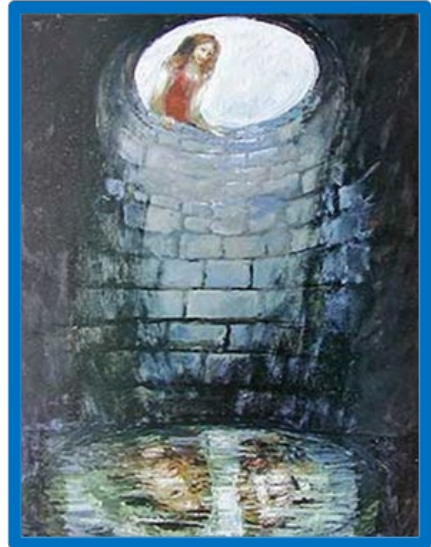
“You have no bucket, sir,” she answered, “and the well, is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself...?”

Jesus replied;

Whoever drinks this water
will get thirsty again;
but anyone who drinks this water
that I shall give
will never be thirsty again:
the water that I shall give
will turn into a spring inside him,
welling up to eternal life.”

(John 4:10-14, JB)

Some experiences are like wells. People create them. They are life-giving happenings, redeeming experiences. They are wells... wells of wonder...wells of hope. When you find a well you will someday drink deeply of the gift within. Then you may discover that you've become what you've received. And then you'll be a well for others to find.



- As I look into the well of my being how am I ready to listen to myself and to the other?
- As I go to the bucket within me what values will I put there to pass on to others?

STORY OF TWO DISCIPLES MEETING A STRANGER ON ROAD TO EMMAUS: THE STRANGER WHO DISTURBS AND TRANSFORMS AND WHO IS CHRIST

Our stories of discouragement and loss, grace amid challenges, and of the “strangers” we have met on the road shape us.

“Reste Avec Nous”-Rest with us-R. Lebel

<https://youtu.be/9slLBRCsXsA?si=R8CLzynr8BDIbzlj>

Stay with us because it's late

Stay with us! The day is declining.

Stay with us, You, the stranger, You who resemble him...

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus...and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.... Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad....Cleopas answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know...?” He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth...condemned to death and crucified. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women...when they did not find his body came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said but they did not see him.”...Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.



But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same

hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. (Lk.24:13-35)

- **Are you like Mary and Cleopas, experiencing immense fear and loss?**
- **Who is the stranger mysteriously accompanying you, opening your eyes, and causing your heart to burn?**
- **How are you shaping lament into hope?**

Invitation to Hospitality: Jesus "makes to go on", allowing the disciples to invite them into their home for a meal. At this stage, he is still a stranger to them. As a proverb from the Ivory Coast says "The stranger has eyes what we do not have." The stranger can help us see ourselves and world differently.

- **How are you called to invite Jesus as stranger into your homes, communities, places of ministry...into our hearts?**

They share a meal, a moment of intimacy and recognition, as Jesus suddenly disappears. This time, they are full of joy and hope, a lightness that impels them to run back to Jerusalem, back to community, to share the good news with others.

- **How are you "going back to Jerusalem"?**
- **How are you called to experience this joy of the Risen Christ in our midst and share this with others?**
- **Where are you on this journey of walking with Jesus as he listens, makes sense of our story and reveals himself to us in the breaking of bread?**

THE WOMAN WITH THE HEMORRHAGE

A woman had been afflicted with a hemorrhage for twelve years. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd. “if I just touch his cloak,” she thought, “I shall get well.” Immediately her flow of blood dried up. Jesus began to ask “who touched me?” Fearful; and trembling, she fell in front of him and told him the whole story. He said to her “Daughter, your faith has cured you.” Mark 5:25-34



Unnamed Woman of the Gospel,
your spirit suffocated by shame and fear, your presence shunned and cursed for years...

But this day, the voice of Jesus pierced your darkness;
Your spirit quickened, and risking all, you edged your way toward him.

With trembling fingers, you reached out to touch his cloak and you, who were entombed, that instant came alive!

Hope, healing, freedom and community are now yours to celebrate.
Help us, who still struggle, to reach out to the healing hem of your compassionate heart...

Someone Touched Me: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gbsld9imz7c>

Have a conversation with this woman who had been in pain for 12 long years ...

- Tell her some of your struggles/pains over the years
- Ask her what drove her to act as she did that day by the seashore and what healing has meant to her
- Share with her what keeps you from reaching out to others... offering help, asking for and accepting help, expressing gratitude, apologizing, forgiving ...Listen to her response