

Feb 28, 2021



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

**Lesson Leaders:**

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**Class Leaders:**

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

The glory of life is to love, not to be loved; to give, not to get; to serve, not to be served

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

Dear Lord, give me wisdom to know which of Your workers in the fields of the world need my help. Show me how my family can surround them with encouragement and support

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now  
(Phil 1:3-5 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Dec 17, 2013)

**New Series: Prophets Faithful to God's Covenant**

**UNIT 1: Faithful Prophets**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Prophet of Deliverance (Deut 18:15-22)**

## Called to Support Luke 8:1-3; Mark 15:40; John 20:10-18

**Lesson Background and Introduction**

Many charges were made against Jesus during his ministry, including drunkenness, Sabbath breaking, blasphemy, and using the power of Satan (see Mark 3:22-23; Luke 7:34; John 5:18; etc.). Because women traveled with Him regularly, we might expect similar charges regarding sexual sins. But no record claims that either Jesus or any of his disciples (male or female) were accused of sexual immorality while they ministered together. Mary Magdalene was one of these women. In today's story, Mary Magdalene, a firm disciple and believer, was a seeker: she sought Jesus' body and was not easily dissuaded from her quest. But that quest was mistaken, for there was no longer a dead body. Try as she might, Mary did not find Jesus. He found her. Jesus had first found Mary to deliver her from demonization. He then found her weeping in a tomb, a woman for whom the recent days had been a dark nightmare. Isaiah promised, "[God] will come to save you" (Isaiah 35:4). As it was with Mary, so it is with us: If we seek Jesus but don't find Him, it may be because our search is based on a mistaken idea. We clear up any mistakes by reading the facts of Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension in the Bible. That's where hearing His call starts.

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

**Women Following Jesus** - Mary Magdalene's conversion story is a great example of God's care. Demons possessed her body until Jesus set her free (Luke 8:2). Another follower of Jesus was Joanna, the wife of one of the stewards for Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee. She would have been from the upper class of that day. It's surprising to see two women from such different backgrounds joining hands to follow Jesus. Mark also mentioned several women who wholeheartedly supported Jesus: Mary, Jesus' mother; Mary, mother of James and Joses; and Salome (Mark 15:40).

**Women at the Tomb** - Women were the first ones to discover the Resurrection when they went to the tomb to wrap Jesus' body with spices after His crucifixion. They hadn't expected an empty tomb. Mary Magdalene stood outside the tomb, heartbroken, weeping, figuring His body had been stolen, but then she saw two angels in the tomb who asked, "Why are you crying?" She explained that she thought others had taken His body and she didn't know where.

**Jesus Called Mary's Name** - Then Mary turned around, and there stood Jesus, though at first she did not recognize His resurrected body and assumed Him to be a gardener. But Jesus called her name, and she knew—it's Jesus! He commissioned her to go and tell the other disciples about His resurrection.

**The Shepherd Knows Every Name** - God knows everyone by name because we are His sheep. Like a little lamb, God's children are allowed to curl up in the Shepherd's lap, experience His love, and listen to His voice tenderly calling your name. Out of this abundance of compassion, believers tell their stories and spread His Gospel.

*(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Support through Provisions (Luke 8:1-3)**

#### *Provisions because of being their leader (1)*

- Support leaders because of consideration of their works (Heb 13:7)
- Support leaders because they deserve it (1 Cor 9:11-12)
- Support leaders because it will be credited to our spiritual account (Phil 4:17-18)
- Support leaders because there is a reward for doing so (Matt 10:41-42)

#### *Provisions because of receiving healings (2)*

- Healing should result in never forgetting God's benefits (Ps 103:1-3)
- Healing should result in providing praises to God for His unfailing love (Ps 107:20-21)
- Healing should result in providing praises to God because it is appropriate and right (Luke 17:15-18)
- Healing should result in providing praises to God because it inspires others to praise Him too (Luke 18:42-43)

#### *Provisions through giving (3)*

- Giving through the sharing of the benefits (1 Cor 9:7-11)
- Giving through sharing all good things with leaders (Gal 6:6)
- Giving through welcoming and honoring leaders (Phil 2:29-30)
- Giving through rewarding the service rendered by leaders (2 Tim 2:6)

### **Support through Following Jesus (Mark 15:40)**

#### *Following humbly (40)*

- Humility because it is a blessing (Matt 5:3)
- Humility because it leads to justification (Luke 18:13-14)
- Humility because it is a part of submission to God (James 4:7-8)
- Humility because it is a prerequisite of being lifted up by God (1 Peter 5:5-6)

#### *Following by serving (40-41)*

- Serving by pressing on toward the goal God has set for us (Phil 3:14)
- Serving by doing God's will (Heb 10:36)
- Serving by finishing the work God has assigned us (John 4:34)
- Serving by doing good works (Eph 2:10)

### **Support through Seeking (John 20:10-18)**

#### *Seeking in wrong places (10-13)*

- Seeking in the wrong places like seeking for a human king (Matt 2:1-2)
- Seeking in the wrong places such as checking for Jesus in every child (Matt 2:16)
- Seeking in the wrong places without the aid of the Holy Spirit (John 5:38-40)
- Seeking in the wrong places instead of seeking to be of service to God (Luke 2:46-50)

#### *Seeking without recognizing when found (14-15)*

- Not recognizing Jesus until He opens our eyes (Luke 24:30-32)
- Not recognizing Jesus until He works a miracle in our lives (John 21:4-7)
- Not recognizing Jesus but knowing that someone is working in our lives (John 9:17-25)

#### *Seeking earnestly results in finding Jesus (16-17)*

- Finding Jesus while He is near (Isa 55:6-7)
- Finding Jesus because He has already found us (Isa 65:1)
- Finding Jesus by knocking and having the door opened (Matt 7:7-8)
- Finding Jesus by waiting and listening for Him (Prov 8:34-35)

#### *Seeking to tell others about finding Jesus (18)*

- Witness to others because Jesus commanded it (Matt 28:18-20)
- Witness to others through the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)
- Witness to others through teaching (2 Tim 2:2)
- Witness starts at home (Luke 8:39)