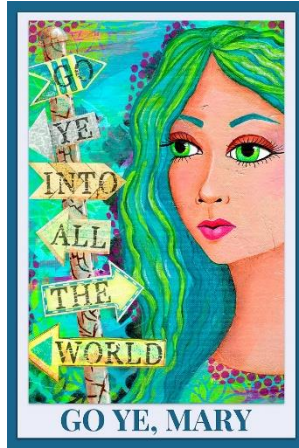




Go Ye, Mary Magdalene



Details of Artwork:

Dated: November 2020

Author: Yobeth Puckett, Artist

Media: Mixed Media Acrylic

Based on: All 4 Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John

Characteristics: Devotion, great commission

Synopsis: The bright, vivid aquas, blues, and green in this mixed media work are associated with heaven and everlasting life. They make me think of how exciting it must have been being near Jesus when he walked on earth. I can only imagine sitting at his feet to learn from him. Being a witness to His 1000's of miracles and lives that were changed when people were healed of their infirmities and sins. Wow, to be present with God in the flesh! Even so, not everyone maintained the same level of joy in their salvation, but Mary Magdalene loved Jesus deeply and her devotion to Him never faltered after He saved her.

She had a prominent place in Jesus' last moments too. She was present at the cross when Jesus was crucified and at His burial. She was one of the first to discover the stone rolled away from the tomb. She was the first one to give witness to the resurrection and she was the first to see and talk to the resurrected Christ. Although, his death and burial felt like a crushing blow to his followers his resurrection proved his victory over death and hell.

Story: Mary was a common name during this time (about 30 A.D.) but there was much to be said about this Mary. She is mentioned more frequently in the Gospels than any other woman other than Mary, Jesus' mother.

When Mary Magdalene first met Jesus, she was possessed by seven demons which Jesus cast out (Luke 8:2; Mark 16:9-10). Once Jesus freed her of the demon possession, she redirected her whole life toward following and serving Him. She and a few other women, traveled with them and also supported Jesus and His disciples in their ministries.

There are a couple of New Testament passages that record Jesus' warning about unclean or evil spirits (Matthew 12:43-45; Luke 11:24-26). In these passages He warns of such a spirit going out of a man and then returning to find his life "empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first." The individual described has done his best to clean himself up and get his life in order. This is self-righteousness. Without God's presence, the individual is vulnerable to other spiritual beings. Whatever led to Mary's possession by seven devils is unknown. However, the most powerful evil spirits are powerless against the Son of God.

When Jesus was crucified it's recorded in all four gospels that Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of Jesus, and many other women were present. John 19:25-26 is the only book that mentions John's presence at the crucifixion.

Mary Magdalene and Mary, Jesus' mother were both found sitting against the sepulchre and when the sabbath ended they both came at dawn with sweet spices to anoint his body. When they got to the tomb, they found the stone that Pilate had placed to secure the tomb had been rolled away. Mary ran to tell the others, but they didn't believe her. Simon Peter and John ran to see for themselves. When they entered the tomb and saw the burial cloths wrapped together in a place by themselves, they believed. Then they went away unto their own homes.

But Mary stood outside the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, and saw two angels in white. She went in and talked with them for a minute then turned around and saw Jesus, but she didn't realize it was him until he spoke her name. At that time Jesus gave her the first commission to go and tell his disciples that he would see them in Galilee. Mary Magdalene went and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things to her.

That evening when the disciples had assembled together Jesus came and stood in their midst and spoke with them. He upbraided them for their unbelief and hardness of heart because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And instructed them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

She was twice commissioned by Jesus to Go and tell others about Him. First to go and tell his disciples that he was risen and second to go tell the gospel to all the world. We are all given that commission following salvation. I imagine we all fall short in that area, I know I do.

History: Prior to his conversion Saul was totally devoted to persecuting, imprisoning, and killing Christians but when he met the Lord on the road to Damascus he was completely transformed and given a new name, Paul. Jesus sent him to give the gospel to the Gentiles. He went on to become a zealous preacher, teacher, evangelist, missionary, church planter, and wrote fourteen books in the New Testament. He never waxed cold.

Memory Verse: Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**

Another Story: Of all the women in the New Testament Mary Magdalene is the only one that could come close to comparing to Paul in her unwavering dedication. Paul's devotion to the Lord never waned even though he was frequently and severely persecuted.