

Holy Mary Magdalene

Cathedral of Saint Matthew – Houston, Texas

In the time of Jesus, we all know the unjust and discriminatory things that the women dealt with. In a world dominated by men, the woman in general was considered almost as more of an object and limited to the tasks of the house and to have and to raise children.

Also, by having monthly menstruation she was respected as impure and when she gave birth to a girl, was considered impure for 80 days, if she had a son, the legal impurity was only for 40 days.

A woman in times of Jesus had no liberties. She couldn't speak with other people; neither attend freely the Synagogue, nor make decisions for her life...

But Our Lord Jesus Christ came to change these things. He was truly a free man and he came to teach us to be free. Of course free to LOVE!

First, he treats all the people, men and women, with respect and with normality. At the same time that he elected his apostles, they were surrounded by a group of women that served and accompanied him through his three years of preaching in Judea, Galilee and Samaria.

But besides that, he had some very special friends, Martha and Mary of Bethany, that jointly with Lazarus; I believe they were his best friends. He loved them truly, and seemed to frequented with them and went to their house, with his disciples, as his own house of Nazareth.

The figure of Mary Magdalene.

She appears several times in the Gospels, in Bethany serving him and also at his feet listening to him and conversing with Him. Also spilling an expensive perfume on his feet and drying them with her long hair.

In another occasion, Luke mentions her explicitly as one among the 3 women that accompanied Jesus, traveling through cities and villages, preaching and announcing the Good New Kingdom of God, Mary Magdalene, Johanna, Susana and others that attended him with their own resources.

But what truly stands out is the figure of Mary Magdalene at the foot of the cross, next to, the mother of Jesus and to Mary, wife of Clopas. Therefore it is in the evils when the true and caring friendships are

tested! And of course, according to Saint John, and we have heard him today in the Gospel, as the first person that the Resurrected Savior appeared to was Mary Magdalene, that with so much love she embraced him and was glad to see him again alive, and that was when Jesus sent her to give the Good News to his apostles that he had been resurrected!

Conclusion:

Primarily, we should learn from Jesus to give a place to women in life, in society, in the home, and in the Church. A place of equality and of true love and appreciation for all their gifts and talents!

If for many Fathers of the Church, the figure of Mary the mother of Jesus was of co redeemer, and that of Mary Magdalene, an Apostle in the primitive Church, why not permit the full access of the Priestly or Episcopal Ministry to the woman?

In second place, I want to remark on the great love that Mary Magdalene had for Jesus. “Rabbi” and “My teacher,” she called him.

We recall with happiness of Mary Magdalene. A great disciple and friend of the Lord, a true Apostle of the primitive Church that according to an old tradition finished his days in the city of Ephesus, along side of the Virgin Mary and John the Evangelist!

Although the Pope Gregory in the fifth century confused her with the sins of the adulteress woman, the truth is that Mary Magdalene shines with her own light as the woman impassioned with the figure of Jesus and by the extension of the Kingdom of God!

Holy Mary Magdalene, pray for us. Amen.