

The Women Who Minister to Christ

Luke 8:1-3 (KJV)

¹ And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve *were* with him,

² And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils,

³ And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.

❖ Historical Setting following events in Luke 7:36-40 (KJV)

➤ Jesus goes to a Pharisee's home for dinner and a sinful woman comes in and anoints his feet.

³⁶ And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.

➤ Who? ³⁷ And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,

➤ What did she do?

³⁸ And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

➤ Simon's response?

³⁹ Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman *this is* that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

➤ Jesus' response? A parable of two debtors.

⁴⁰ And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

➤ And a question: Who loved most? And a lesson about forgiveness.

Luke 7:48 (KJV)

⁴⁸ And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. ...

⁵⁰ And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

➤ This was an example of how one woman demonstrated her love to Christ.

▪ How can we, as ladies, demonstrate our love to Christ today?

- Praising God in the gathering of the saints

Hebrews 13:15 (KJV)

¹⁵ By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

compare to how saints in the Old Testament praised God:

Psalms 27:6 (KJV)

⁶ And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.

- Testifying to God's work in our lives

Luke 8:39 (KJV)

³⁹ Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.

- Giving attendance to the Word of God

Mark 4:23-24 (KJV)

²³ If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.

²⁴ And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.

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Luke 8:18 (KJV)

¹⁸ Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.

- **Obedience to God's commandments**

John 14:15 (KJV)

¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 14:21 (KJV)

²¹ He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

❖ **Current setting – Jesus then continues going through many cities and villages preaching the kingdom of God.**

➤ **Who is with Him?**

- Verse 1—the twelve, His disciples
- Verses 2-3 three women are named:
 - Mary Magdalene—from whom he cast out seven devils
 - Joanna—identified at the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward—possibly a woman of means & ability
 - Susanna
 - “and many others”—probably other unnamed women in the entourage

➤ **And what did they do? “ministered unto him of their substance”**

- Word “minister”
 - ◆ To be an attendant, or servant
 - ◆ To wait upon
 - ◆ To supply the needs of another—food, necessities of life
 - ◆ To take care of the poor and sick
 - ◆ Also used in **Luke 4:38-39 (KJV)**
 - ³⁸ And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her.
 - ³⁹ And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.
 - ◆ Same word as “deacon”

➤ **In what ways can we as ladies minister to others today?**

- **1 John 4:21 (KJV)**
 - ²¹ And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.
- **1 John 3:17-18 (KJV)**
 - ¹⁷ But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?
 - ¹⁸ My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.
- **Some practical ideas for ministering to others:**
 - Take meals
 - Provide transportation
 - Watch children
 - Use our skills (knit/crochet/sew) to make things others need
 - Share “Hand-me-downs”
 - Visit the sick and elderly

❖ **Matthew 22:36-39 (KJV)**

³⁶ Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

³⁷ Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

³⁸ This is the first and great commandment.

³⁹ And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

If we do these things, we will be women who minister to Christ and to one another.