

Fall in love with Jesus

We don't know how it started. Maybe she made one wrong friend and that led her to another then another. Perhaps she dated one wrong guy in school and that set her on the path of trouble.

Somewhere something went terribly wrong. Before she knew it, she was in crisis.

That can happen to anybody. One step away from God can lead us to languishing in LoDebar or miserable in Moab.

We don't know how she grew up. Did she have a mom and dad? Had she mostly raised herself? We can guess that she had suffered for years. Regret, hopelessness, and despair would have kept her tossing and turning every night.

Luke 8:1-3 tells part of the real-life story of Mary Magdalene. We don't

know how it began, or the whole story, just some of it.

Luke drops the profound information that she had been delivered from seven demons and then just goes right on. I want to know more! We don't have more, but we can imagine. Mary Mag's life had been hard.

Somewhat, somewhere, not only one demon came into Mary Magdalene's life but seven. I have heard people say drug addiction is like a demon possession. It takes over your being and you can't get free of it. Ponder seven of those.

While we have no way of knowing her full story, we know what happened after she met Jesus. Really met Jesus. Fell in love with Jesus. She never went back to her old life, that's for sure. And it makes

sense. Jesus had delivered her. Why in tarnation would she leave Him? Wherever Jesus was, that's where Mary wanted to be. The same is true for us. Has Jesus got you through some things? Has He saved your bacon? Has He carried you through some hard times — times you didn't think you would survive? Has He been faithful to you? Yes, yes, yes, yes! Has He ever left you? NO! Then why would we ever leave Him?!

Mary Magdalene fell in love with Jesus. Not the dating, married kind of love. But the life-changing love of a Savior. So, she followed Him.

Luke 8:3 tells us she gave of her own money to support His ministry. We have resources Jesus can use. Are we using our money, time, gifts, and talents to point people to Him?

After His resurrection, Jesus gave Mary Magdalene a mission: Go and tell

the others (John 20:17). She obeyed. Because she loved Him.

When we fall in love with Jesus...

We will want to follow Him. (Wherever that leads. Near or far.)

We will want to spend time with Him. (In prayer. Talk to Him often.)

We will want to listen to Him. (We can listen to Him today through His Word.)

We will want to serve Him. (Use our money, time, gifts, talents, our resources.)

We will want to stick with Him. (Even when we don't understand what He is doing.)

We will want to tell others about Him. (What do we do with good recipes? Good shows? Funny videos? We. Share. Them. Let's share the good news about Jesus.)

The last one comes from Mark 12:30: "Love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul and

with all your mind and with all your strength."

Always love Him first. (Love Him most. Love Him best.)

As the weather turns cooler and leaves begin to change, let's FALL IN LOVE WITH JESUS every single day!

Email religion columnist Dawn Reed at preacher-wife7@yahoo.com.

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TRUMP

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style is mirrored by the rest of his administration, which so far seems more interested in mocking and pummeling Democrats than negotiating with them.

Government websites feature pop-up messages blaming "the Radical Left" for the shutdown, an unusually

political message for ostensibly nonpartisan agencies. When reporters email the White House press office, they receive an automated reply blaming slow answers on "staff shortages resulting from the Democrat Shutdown."

Trump's White House is accustomed to take-no-prisoners political messaging, continuing its aggressive style from last year's campaign that critics describe as callous and vindictive. The administration

rarely misses an opportunity to get under the skin of its opponents.

The president took a similar online approach to the last government shutdown, which began in December 2018 and lasted until January 2019 during his first term in office. On the 30th day of that shutdown, Politico tallied 40 tweets from Trump, including a complaint that then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was acting "so irrationally" and

gratitude for federal employees for "working so hard for your Country and not getting paid."

Back then, Trump took most of the blame, with an Associated Press-NORC poll showing about 7 in 10 Americans saying he had "a great deal" or "quite a bit" of responsibility. He ultimately backed down from his demand for border wall funding, signed legislation allowing the government to reopen.

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