

MARY, THE DISCIPLE

This Christmas our Sunday lessons have focused on the life of Mary, the mother of Jesus. We have studied these five lessons.

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| • Mary, the Virgin | (Luke 1:29-38) | The Child |
| • Mary, the Relative | (Luke 39-45) | The Cousin |
| • Mary, the Mother | (Matt.1:18-25) | The Conflict |
| • Mary, the Woman | (John 19:25-27) | The Cross |
| • Mary, the Disciple | (Acts 1:11-15) | The Christian |

Mary did you know that your baby Jesus would rise from the grave on the third day? (Luke 24:5-8)
Mary why did you not stop the women from preparing the burial spices for Jesus? (Luke 23:55)

Jesus Christ arose from the dead on the Jewish holiday of Firstfruit (1 Cor.15:20-23). It occurred on the first day after the first weekly Sabbath of Unleavened Bread holiday. Fifty days from Firstfruit was Pentecost.

For the next forty days after Firstfruit, Jesus will make eleven post-resurrection appearances that are recorded in the Scriptures.

It was during these 40 days that many members of the earthly family of Jesus became believers and disciples (Matt.13:55-56; John 7:5; 1 Cor.15:7).

It was during these 40 days that His disciples became knowledgeable of the difference between the First Coming and the Second Coming (Acts 1:11).

We will examine our lesson text by the following three homiletical points.

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| • Parting | (Acts 1:11) | Jesus |
| • Party | (Acts 1:12-13) | Jerusalem (Luke 24:49) |
| • Prayer | (Acts 1:14-15) | Joint prayer (five groups) |

Our lesson occurs at the end of these 40 days of post-resurrection appearances of Jesus Christ. It occurred during the 10 days prior to Pentecost in the upper room. It was during this time that Mary became a disciple of Jesus Christ.

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| This lesson will study five aspects of Mary, the Disciple of Jesus Christ. |
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1. It was during these 40 days that Jesus did something unusual for both the Jewish and Church ages. He breathed the Holy Spirit upon His disciples.

“And when He had said this, He breathed (emphusao/ a.a.ind/ same in Gen.2:7) on them, and said to them, ‘Receive (lambano/ a.a.impv.2pl) Holy Spirit.’” (John 20:22)

This will be important to these disciples during the 10 days when Jesus is absent from the earth and the Holy Spirit has not yet been sent (John 15:26-27; Luke 24:49; Matt.3:11; Acts 1:4-5 – “But you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”/ Acts 2:1)

2. It was during these 10 days that Mary became a disciple of Jesus Christ. (Acts 1:9-12).

“These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women (Galileans), and Mary the mother of Jesus, and His brothers.” (Acts 1:14)

It won't be until Acts 11:26 that the disciples of Jesus Christ will be called Christians.

At Pentecost, Mary along with the 120 disciples in the upper room will be incorporated into the Church at Jerusalem by the Parakletos baptism of Jesus Christ (Acts 2; John 14-16; 1 Cor.12:13).

This incorporation will result in them becoming the visible Church of Jesus Christ to the world (8 works of the Holy Spirit). “For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.” (1 Cor.12:12/ Spiritual gifts)

What will this incorporation mean to Mary? “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Gal.3:28; 2 Cor.5:17)

3. Mary and this group of 120 disciples of Jesus Christ evangelized their generation of the world (Acts 1:15).

The blue print that they used was Acts 1:8 – “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

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| Jerusalem* | Birmingham* |
| Judea | Alabama |
| Samaria | USA |
| Remote | World |

4. Prior to His death, Jesus explained to a large crowd gathered for bible study about the cost of discipleship (Luke 14:25-35).

“If anyone comes to me.”

“He cannot be My disciple.”

And does not hate his family and even his own life (14:26) (Abraham / Acts 7:1-3)

And does not carry his cross and follow Me (14:27) (Stephen / Acts 7:54-56)

And does not give up everything (14:28) (Peter / Mark 10:28-31)

Very seldom was Jesus' teaching to His disciples negative. But in this incident, Jesus painted a different picture of discipleship.

Jesus is saying maybe we should pause and consider the cost before signing-up for discipleship.

5. What is the church agenda for developing disciples?

Acts2:42 suggest four factors: Apostles teachings, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer. Matt.28:19 suggests a fifth factor: evangelism.

The 10-day wait for Pentecost was spent in prayer. How important is the role of prayer in discipleship and the work of the Lord? (1 John 5:14-15; 1 Thess.5:17, 25)