

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

(Monday – 01/12/09 – Pastor Pete Norris)

Mary of Magdala was the victim of a fearful evil, for not one devil, but seven had possessed her. These dreadful inmates caused much pain and pollution to the poor frame in which they had found lodging. Hers was a hopeless, horrible case. She could not help herself, and no human assistance could avail. But Jesus passed her way. Unsought, and probably even resisted by the poor demoniac, He uttered the word of power, and Mary of Magdala became a trophy of the healing power of Jesus. All seven demons left her, never to return. The Lord of all forcibly ejected them.

What blessed deliverance! What happy change! From delirium to delight, from despair to peace, from hell to heaven! Immediately she became a constant follower of Jesus, catching His every word, following His winding steps, sharing His toilsome life. She became His generous helper and was first among that group of healed and grateful women who ministered to Him from their substance. When Jesus was lifted up in crucifixion, Mary shared His shame. We find her first looking from a distant, then drawing near to the foot of the cross. She could not die on the cross with Jesus, but she stood as close as she could. When His blessed body was taken down, she watched to see how and where it was placed.

She was a faithful and watchful believer, last at the tomb where Jesus slept, first at the grave when He arose. Her holy faithfulness made her favored behold of her beloved Rabboni. Jesus called her by name and made her His messenger of good news to the trembling disciples and Peter. Grace found her a maniac and made her a minister. Grace cast out devils and she saw angels. Grace delivered her from Satan and united her forever to the Lord Jesus. Dear Lord, may I also be such a miracle of Grace. Read Mark 16.

His Grace

Pastor Pete