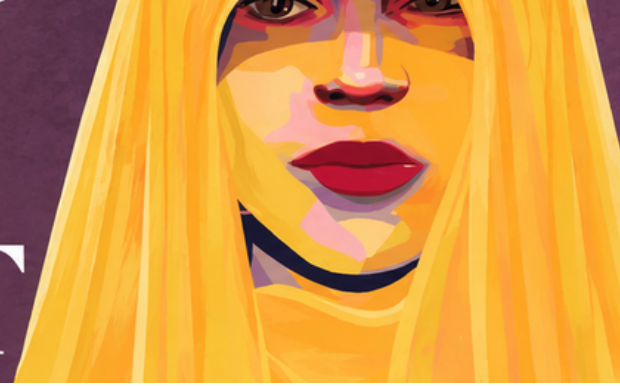


9/13/2026

MARY WE FORGOT



Sermon Summary: Dr. Jennifer Powell McNutt spoke to us this week about the goodness of Mary Magdalene, an apostle we don't usually consider her to be. We usually define her by one of two things: the myth that she had been a prostitute or only the moments at Jesus' empty tomb. We forget—or we don't know—so much about her.

That Jesus healed her of possession by seven demons. That she was one of several women who traveled with Jesus and the disciples. That she dedicated her life wholeheartedly to His ministry. That she was there at the cross and saw them sealing His tomb. That she is the only one named by all four Gospels as the first person to arrive at the empty tomb.

The woman once bound by seven demons is so freed by Christ that she can be visited by angels. Jesus Himself chooses her to announce the message, in words He gives her: "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." With Jesus as our brother, God is our Father.

Conversation Starter: Have you ever believed something of someone you knew only to find out it wasn't true? What impact did that have on your relationship?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help us to see beyond what we think we know, about each other and about You and your disciples. Open our hearts and minds to a deeper understanding, a closer relationship. In Your holy name, we pray. Amen

Read Scripture together: John 20: 13 - 17

3-Question Study Method

Use this method to understand the passage.

1. What is the passage about?
2. What do I learn about God?
3. What is the lesson I learn that I can apply to my life?

Discussion Questions:

- What did you learn about Mary Magdalene that surprised you? We often know her simply as the woman who encountered Jesus at the empty tomb. How does learning more about her story—her healing, her devotion to Jesus, and her presence throughout His ministry—change the way you see her?
- Mary Magdalene was the first person Jesus chose to announce His resurrection. Dr. McNutt pointed out that the Greek word used for “announce” in John 20:18 is unique in the New Testament and carries the sense of announcing as an angel would. What do you think Jesus was communicating by choosing Mary for this role? What does her announcement teach us about Jesus and about God as our Father?
- Imagine Mary Magdalene running from the empty tomb to tell the disciples that Jesus lives. Picture her excitement, joy, and urgency. What do you think motivated her to run and share the news? What might her response teach us about sharing the good news of Jesus?
- Dr. McNutt encouraged us to “run with Mary Magdalene” and let others know the good news. What might that look like in your life right now? Is there a person, conversation, or situation where God may be inviting you to share His love or the hope you have in Christ?
- Mary Magdalene’s story reminds us that God can use people we might overlook or underestimate. How can we, as Christians, encourage one another to learn more about the people Jesus called and used—and allow their stories to deepen and strengthen our own faith?
- What is one thing from this message that you want to carry with you this week? How might it change the way you see Jesus, yourself, or the people God has placed around you?

Memory Verse: “Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” John 20:18

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the many voices You provide to tell us the good news. Like Mary Magdalene, may we run with joy and excitement to share that news with others. May our We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.