

Exegetical Notes - Luke 8:1-3
“Jesus and the Faithful Women”

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Luke 8:1-3

Verse 1a

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.

- For a time, Jesus’ ministry had been confined to the area surrounding Capernaum. At this moment, he enlarged the area by traveling from place to place.

Verse 1b-2a

The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases:

- On these journeys, Jesus was accompanied by the twelve apostles and a group of women.
- These women had all been “cured of evil spirits.” The phrase is understood to mean that these women had been healed of illnesses which may have been physical, emotional, and/or spiritual.

Verse 2b-3a

Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod’s household; Susanna; and many others.

- Three of the women in the group that accompanied Jesus are mentioned by name. It is assumed that they were specifically mentioned because they were well known among Christians at the time the Gospel of Luke was written.
- The first woman mentioned is Mary Magdalene. Mary may have been from the village of Magdala which was a few miles from Capernaum. However, the word may come from the Hebrew word which means tower. Mary appears prominently in the Gospels. She was one of the women who went to Jesus’ tomb to anoint his body. She was the one

to whom Jesus first appeared after his resurrection. The name, if associated with the Hebrew word, may be a reference to her status among early Christians. Perhaps they regarded her as a “tower of faith.” In the teachings of the earlier church, Mary was believed to have been a prostitute before she became a Christian. Today, scholars think that this was a misunderstanding due to a confusion of persons in the Bible. Scholars argue that the mention of Mary as a supporter of Jesus’ ministry financially in this passage indicates that she came from a wealthy family and was not likely to have been a prostitute.

- The second woman mentioned by name is Joanna the wife of Cuza or Chuza. Her husband was the “manager of Herod’s household. The Herod here mentioned is Herod the Tetrarch of Galilee who was one of those before whom Jesus stood trial. Cuza was the person responsible for the management of Herod’s personal property and wealth. Cuza would have been a highly respected person. Cuza may have been a slave owned by Herod who was highly trusted and favored by his Master. Joanna was also one of the women who went to anoint the body of Jesus.
- The third woman mentioned by name is Susanna. Of Susanna, nothing more is said in the Bible.

Verse 3b

These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

- These women contributed financially to Jesus’ ministry.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *Jesus and the Faithful Women*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by Dr. Jensen and *Cornerstone Fellowship*.)