



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Ministering Women

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In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke, a Gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities sharing scripture, teaching forgiving sin, physically healing people of demons and disease, and raising the dead. Jesus began to challenge the religious rituals of the day and most importantly shared the Kingdom of God. On this occasion, Luke describes women ministering to Jesus.

“Soon afterwards, He began going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God. The twelve were with Him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means.” (Luke 8:1-3 NASB)

Proclaiming and Preaching the Kingdom of God. Luke records that a short time after a dinner with the Pharisee, Jesus continued proclaiming (*publicly announcing or officially declaring*) and preaching (*bring the good news of*) the kingdom of God to one city and village after another in the region of Galilee.

The Twelve and also some Women. Jesus, in His travels was accompanied by His selected twelve disciples and some women who had either been healed of an evil spirit or a sickness and had become a follower of Jesus. Jesus challenges the religious practices, rituals or norms of the day. While it was not unusual for women to share their wealth with Rabbis, it was unusual for women to travel with a Rabbi. The women's lives had been healed and changed by Jesus. Jesus proclaimed and preached the kingdom of God to all: Jew and Gentile, rich and poor, men and women. The apostle Paul similarly in his letter to the Galatians: *“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) Luke provides three examples of women from diverse backgrounds that followed Jesus. *“... All are one in Christ Jesus.”*

Mary Magdalene. The first woman that Luke records is Mary Magdalene, a resident of Magdala, and who Jesus had cast out seven demons. Jesus changed Mary's life. While Mary had demons, she was never described in scripture as a prostitute and is not considered the woman described in the dinner prior to this passage. Mary Magdalene is also the first person that Jesus appeared to after His resurrection (Mk 16:9).

Joanna. The second woman recorded is Joanna whose husband, Chuza, was Herod Antipas' steward. Joanna and her family were likely wealthy and powerful. Joanna was among those that found the garden tomb empty and one of the first to report the resurrection of Jesus to the disciples. Jesus changed Joanna's life. *“... All are one in Christ Jesus.”*

Susanna. The third woman recorded is Susanna. Nothing else in scripture is recorded about Susanna other than she was a follower and ministered to Jesus. Susanna, as well as many others, ministered to Jesus in private ways known only to God. Jesus changed Susanna's life. *“... All are one in Christ Jesus.”*

Many Others Contributing. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna and many other women followed, ministered and contributed to the ministry of Jesus because He had changed their lives. Many of their ministries are known and understood and many are private and not known, but all following and serving Jesus Christ. *“... All are one in Christ Jesus.”*

For Your Consideration:

- Like the women, has Jesus changed your life and are you following and serving Him?
- Are you more concerned that people know your ministries for serving Jesus than going somewhat unknown by people yet known by God like Susanna?
- Do you believe what Paul said that *“... All are one in Christ Jesus.”*?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44