

Gospel Text: Matthew 28:1, 8-15: *"Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went away quickly from the tomb..."*.

World-Changing: Even atheists have to agree that Jesus's Resurrection **was** that: **World-Changing**.

The Light of Christ could not be hidden. During His "tomb-time," Jesus **shared** His Light with the faithful who had departed before His death; but, then, on Easter, that Light returned with VOLCANIC irrepressibility...the Light illuminating the NEW "Big Picture" of the world...AND...a Light to reveal over-look-able tiny details.

One of those illuminated "eentsies" is in the Gospel we heard today. It spoke of Mary Magdalene – quite a familiar figure – and also one called *"...the OTHER Mary."* Well...THAT needs a little Resurrection-Light! Who WAS this "other Mary"?

There is EVIDENCE for a number of possibilities; and there is INTUITION for yet another. So...let's let the Christ-Light shine on TWO answers.

First, there is good Evidence that the "OTHER Mary" is actually the MOTHER of the WRITER of the Gospel – that is, the mother of MATTHEW, the Apostle.

Now, you may recall, there would have been MANY reasons for Matthew to believe the eyewitness report of Mary Magdalene; but he would surely have found even MORE credible the confirming testimony of his own MOM!

**I quite like that explanation**; but you are required to do no more than enjoy it's implications for yourself.

BUT...as noted...INTUITION supplies another Identity for that "OTHER Mary"; and it is this: The Gospels tell us that Jesus had "exorcised" *"...seven demons..."* **OUT OF** Mary Magdalene.

You Bible Scholars will realize that "seven," here, does NOT so much mean "6 plus 1"; "SEVEN," in the Bible, refers to COMPLETENESS. So the Point was NOT that Mary Magdalene was "occupied" by a "seven-pack" of demons. The POINT was that she was COMPLETELY in the CONTROL OF demons. **Only the very PRESENCE OF Jesus COULD over-TURN that demonic tyranny** – AS that Presence actually DID!

Now, unless – as is possible – any of US has ALSO been a "solely-owned subsidiary" of Satan, we cannot imagine the GRATITUDE that Mary Magdalene felt FOR Jesus's liberation, His salvation, OF her. **Could the World's MOST-Forgiven Person EVER FORGET what she HAD been – UNTIL Jesus freed her?**

**FORGET?! IMPOSSIBLE!**...or...as we might put it...as long AS Mary Magdalene DID have a Memory of WHO she WAS...BEFORE Jesus...THAT..."REMEMBERED" Mary...

...that "OTHER Mary" ...who HAD been a dormitory for demons...

...that "OTHER Mary" was ALWAYS with her; GRATITUDE guaran-TEED it!

But, IF that "other Mary" WAS Mary Magdalene's EARLIER self, today's GOSPEL just gets better; because it says that, when the Risen Jesus appeared to them, "both" Marys fell down and *"...worshipped Him."*

So, even if there WAS a "MEMORY Mary" of satanic HISTORY, it was so purified that it, TOO, worshiped the Liberator who had made ANEW...the Mary Magdalene...now "on view."

**Jesus really DOES forgive our PAST.**

Just ask Mary...or... "the OTHER Mary."

**MASS INTENTION:** Michael Corcoran

**Prayer at The Intercessions:** O God, whose Only-Begotten Son entrusted Mary Magdalene, before all others, with announcing the great joy of His Resurrection: Grant, we pray, that through her intercession and example, we may proclaim the living Christ, and come to see Him reigning in your glory; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.