
THE OTHER MARY

The Easter story in the Gospels is full of wonderful cameos.

Among them, one stands out for sheer emotional power and deep insight. It's the story of Mary Magdalene.



Jesus had rescued her from a life of depravity ('seven devils' is the Bible's phrase). For this she repaid Him with the most powerful adoration

and love. She stood beside His Holy Mother, the 'other' Mary, at the foot of the cross as Jesus was crucified. On Sunday morning she went with other women disciples to the tomb to anoint His body. When they arrived they found the tomb was empty. They were told, by an angel, that Jesus of Nazareth wasn't there because He had 'risen'. The other women left, but a distraught Mary waited outside the tomb, weeping. A man appeared, whom she took to be the gardener. 'Why are you weeping?' He asked. 'What are you looking for?' 'They have taken away my Lord,' she replied, 'and I don't know where they have laid Him'. The man then spoke one word, which changed her life for ever. 'Mary', He



saw Him in His ascended glory, not as the carpenter's son but as the Son of God.

It really is some story!

said, using the familiar form of her name.

'Teacher!' she cried, and made to embrace Him.

'Don't touch me,' He said. 'I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go and tell the others'. She did, and became the first person after the resurrection to say, 'I have seen the Lord'. She would see Him again, of course, in the upper room with the other disciples, but then never again on earth, until she

