



### **Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 8:1-3.**

*Jesus journeyed from one town and village to another, preaching and proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God. Accompanying him were the Twelve and some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their resources.*

#### **Luke 8:1-3**

##### **Introductory Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, I believe that you came into this world to redeem sinners. I hope in you and in your power to transform my soul, by your grace, from sinfulness to holiness. Lord, I love you and offer you the longings of my heart to put you truly first in my life. I want to love you with all my mind, heart, soul and strength.

##### **Petition:**

Jesus, teach me to live universal charity.

#### **1. "Accompanying Him Were the Twelve"**

In this rather commonplace phrase from the Gospel, we perceive Jesus' universal charity. He chose his twelve apostles from many different backgrounds. Most of them probably would not have been friends were it not for Christ. Matthew was a tax collector; Peter, James and John, fisherman. Judas was more "sophisticated" than the rest. Yet, Jesus called them all to be his closest collaborators. As a result, they would come to cooperate with and appreciate each other. When Christ is at the center of any relationship, differences can not only be overcome, they can become points of strength as well.

#### **2. Mary, Called Magdalene:**

Not only did he choose men to be his close collaborators, but as the Gospel says there were also "women who provided for him out of their resources." Jesus assigned them different roles, but he saved and transformed their lives all the same. We think of Mary

Magdalene as a close friend of Christ, but we should also remember that he transformed her, with the power of God's grace, by expelling seven demons from her.

### **3. The Wife of Herod's Steward:**

Another of the women following Jesus was "Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward." It is amazing to realize that the Gospel took root even in the midst of the fiefdom of Herod, a man who had absolutely no esteem for our Lord. We, then, should never 'write someone off.' Prayer, sacrifice, and charity can be effective means for the worst sinner's conversion. Jesus' message was capable of inspiring followers in all societal conditions and groupings. Similarly, we are called to build the Kingdom at all levels of our secularized world.

### **Conversation with Christ:**

Lord Jesus Christ, you give us the example of unconditional love for each and every person. You do not care what our background is or how many sins we have committed. Your mercy is infinite and everlasting! Thank you for your love. I beg you to teach me to love without limits.

### **Resolution:**

I promise to practice universal charity today by being kind to someone with whom I do not ordinarily associate.