



"First Fruit and Resources!"

Luke 8:1-3

1. Here is an incredible story of true life change!

- When Jesus truly changes your life, you will have no problem or issue supporting His Ministry **FIRST!**
- **Endurance Church is Jesus' Church! Period! He is the Head of the Church!** Psalm 118:22, Ephesians 1:22, Ephesians 4:12, Ephesians 5:23, Colossians 2:10 and Colossians 1:18
- **Rabbis did not have women disciples!** Yet, Jesus once again breaks the mold and shows the Pharisees and others that He created women and will use women to follow Him and help spread the Good News!
- Luke 8:2 – "**Certain women** who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities"
- Luke 8:2 – "**Mary called Magdalene**"
- **Mary** is from a town called Magdala. She is the woman who was delivered from 7 demons in Mark 16:9.
- **She loved Jesus** – John 20:1-18 / Acts 1:14
- **Mary was not a prostitute!** The 6th Century Pope, Gregory the Great, is the one who started that Mary was the Prostitute. **There is not one scripture that backs this up. Not one!**
- **Joanna** – is amazing in the fact that she was Herod's business manager! **She is now following Jesus the King of Kings instead of the evil Governor!** She was Luke 24:10 at the empty tomb of Jesus and told the Apostles the great news!
- **Suzanna** was a friend of Luke. That's all that we know. But, she loved Jesus!

2. We are told that the women supported Jesus' Ministry and the Disciples with their resources/substance! Luke 8:3.

- It was Jewish custom for any disciples to support the Rabbis by giving their **first fruits**.
- There is other scripture when the disciples were on their own when people would support them. Luke 10:7/Galatians 6:6.
- We must realize that the **First Fruits Principle** is God's Set Up to **RETURN it** back to Him.
- When you give your **First Fruits (10%)** you support and resource God's Kingdom!

Where did this start? Exodus 13!

- When God is FIRST in your life, you will then have ORDER in your life!

- **Exodus 13:1-2** – Dedicate / Consecrate **EVERY FIRSTborn...it belongs to Me.**
- God says that *He is the owner* and *all of the FIRST belongs to Him!* **Psalm 24:1**
- **Verse 12** – the animals – a donkey is unclean and **must be REDEEMED by a FIRSTborn LAMB** that is clean!
- **WHY? The Firstborn animal was to be sacrificed!** It has always been *God's set up that the unclean be redeemed by the clean!* **A lamb for a donkey!** (Firstborn).
- We know that **Jesus is the Lamb** who takes away the Sin (Unclean...**Romans 3:23**) of the world in **John 1:29!** Jesus was and is the **PERFECT Sacrifice!** **Hebrews 10:12!!!!**
- **WOW** - Jesus is God's FIRST given for all of mankind! *What an incredible picture!* (**John 3:16**)
- When an animal gives birth, *give that FIRSTBORN to God before anything else!* *That took faith!* **Why?** What if that animal did not have another baby? Those people relied on this!
- God honors His set up and Word! **FACT** – God does not bless the FIRST FRUIT or TITHE that is brought but *the FAITH in which it is brought in* and given! **Why? It's His already!**
- See...God gave Jesus FIRST! **Romans 5:8** "*While we were still sinners Christ died for us!*"
- **Joshua 6:19** – **WHY?** Jericho was the **FIRST** city that was conquered...*not the Second!*
- **The FIRST portion is always the REDEMPTIVE portion.** *After that...the rest is blessed.*
- *Why not give your FIRST to your mortgage? Hobby? Car? Sports? Because those things have zero POWER to bless the rest!* Zero! (Is Church 2nd or 3rd on your list after other stuff? *Are you teaching your kids "We'll go to church AFTER we do the rest of our stuff"?*)
- **Proverbs 3:9-10** - You honor the Lord by bringing your BEST / FIRST part!
- **Genesis 4:3-5** – God accepts Abel's but not Cain's offering...**Why?** "*Cain brought in some of his crops but Abel brought the Best...the FIRSTborn of the LAMBS...the Lord accepted Abel and his gift, but He did not accept Cain and his gift.*"
- **God accepts the FIRST! Why could not God not accept Cain's offering?** Because God cannot go outside of Himself or what He has in place! **God can't change!** *God cannot be SECOND!* The "**Pre-Imminence of God**" He is FIRST and was never created! He is higher than all! Above all!
- **God can't accept a SECOND PLACE OFFERING** when He says that He blesses the FIRST!
- See, God gave Jesus to us FIRST! The FIRST is a big deal to Jesus! **Why? When you give the FIRST that FIRST helps His bride...the church!** **I treat my bride the very best!**
- *Wherever your FIRST goes is what's FIRST in your life.* If it's your car payment...then that is what is FIRST in your life. Your house payment? Then that is what is FIRST!
- **Leviticus 27:30** – "**EVERY Tithe...its HOLY**" (The FIRST 10% returned back to God)
- **Holy = Set Apart for God.**
- This is why in **Malachi 3:6-10** – **Why is it robbing God?** Because it does not BELONG TO YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE...*its God's!* **Theft is taking something that is not yours!**
- If you have \$100...the first \$10 is returned to God to His House. If you have \$500...the first \$50 is returned to God and to His House.
- People always teach Malachi 3 *but never have I heard someone teach on Malachi 1!* **Why? There are things that God does not accept...the LEFT OVERS!** **Malachi 1:1-14**
- **Exodus 13:14** – **It is to show and tell your CHILDREN!**
- **Luke 8:3** – These women supported Jesus and the Disciples *by their own resources!*