

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL
Sunday School Lesson

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Bible Institute of Chicago.)
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LESSON FOR AUGUST 5

MARY MAGDALENE

LESSON TEXT—Luke 8:1-3; John 9:25, 29-11-15.
GOLDEN TEXT—"Our soul waiteth for the Lord: He is our help and shield."—Psalm 32:21.
REFERENCE MATERIAL—Mark 15:40-16:8; Luke 23:49-24:12.
PRIMARY TOPIC—How Mary Magdalene Showed Her Love for Jesus.
JUNIOR TOPIC—How Mary Magdalene Showed Her Gratitude to Jesus.
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—A Woman's Grateful Service.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Mary Magdalene, Saved and Serving.

I. Mary Saved (Luke 8:1, 2).
While Jesus and His disciples were preaching throughout the villages of Galilee, Mary and certain other women heard the good news of salvation and were saved. Evil spirits were cast out of them. Mary had been possessed with seven demons. The number seven indicates the completeness of her affliction. Bodily affliction usually accompanied demon possession. Doctor Erdman says: "It is a cruel error to confuse Mary Magdalene with the sinful woman of whom Luke has just been writing. Mary had suffered from demon possession, as here stated, but there is nothing in the gospels to indicate that she had ever been a woman of notoriously evil life." So widespread is this false impression that many rescue homes for fallen women are named unjustly, "Magdalene."

II. Mary Ministering (Luke 8:3).
She, with certain women who had been saved from Satan's power, out of a heart of gratitude looked after the comfort of the Lord and His disciples. These women must have been in easy circumstances, as they were able to buy food and other necessities and, doubtless, lodging for Jesus and His disciples. These women were the forerunners of that large company of saved women who have throughout the Christian centuries been ministering to the Lord through kindness to His ministers. How poor would be this world without the ministry of godly women.

III. Mary's Steadfastness (John 19:25).
After the men and disciples had forsaken the Lord a group of faithful women remained at the cross, among whom was Mary Magdalene. Others lingered, prompted by natural affection, but she lingered out of grateful love for salvation from Satan's bondage.

IV. Mary at the Empty Tomb (John 20:11-18).

1. Mistaken Tears (11-13). She had come to the tomb to weep and to pay respect to the body of her Lord. She was weeping over what she regarded as a tragic loss. In spite of her love and faith, she was in a state of confusion. If she had known what was revealed to her a short time afterward, she would not have thus wept. She was weeping because the tomb was empty, when the real cause for weeping would have been the Lord's body in the tomb. How many times we break our hearts over misunderstanding. The fact that a living body had walked out of the tomb instead of the dead body in it should have occasioned rejoicing. The empty tomb is the Christian's ground for hope.

2. The Unrecognized Master (vv. 14, 15).

She was within sight of the living Lord, yet mourning for Him. Let us look in the right direction and we shall have our sorrows turned into joys. The reason she did not recognize the Lord was that He did not appear as she thought He should. Many times our preconceived notions prevent us from seeing Jesus.

3. Restrained Familiarity (vv. 16, 17).

The full meaning of Jesus' words when he forbade Mary to touch Him perhaps we cannot surely know. The difficulty doubtless inhered in Mary's misunderstanding. She seemed to think that the same relations instituted before the resurrection could be resumed. He showed her that He was ascending into glory and that He should henceforth receive divine worship.

4. Mary Telling the Good News of the Resurrection (vv. 17, 18).

The need of telling the good news to the poor despondent disciples was so urgent that there was no time for familiarity. What joy there must have been in the hearts of the disciples at this good news.

Riches.
If thou art rich thou art poor; for, like an ass, whose back with ingots bows, thou bearest thy heavy riches but a journey, and death unloads thee.—Shakespeare.

Communism.
Communism possesses a language which every people can understand. Its elements are hunger, envy and death.—Helne.

Humility.
Humility is a virtue all preach, none practice; and yet everybody is content to hear.—Selden.

The Idler.
An idler is a watch that lacks both hands, as useless if it goes as if it stands.—Cowper.

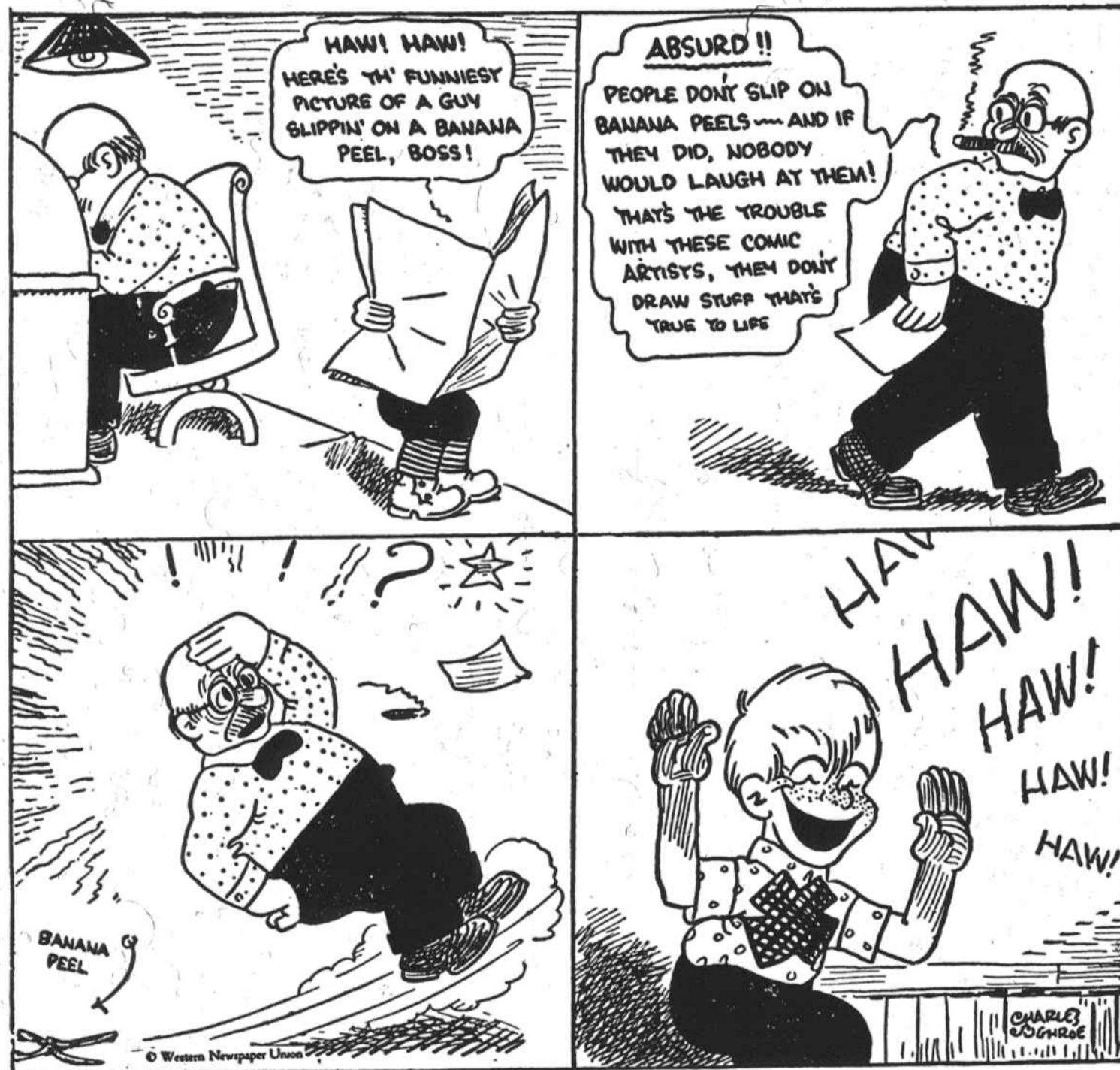
OUR COMIC SECTION

Big Events in the Lives of Little Men

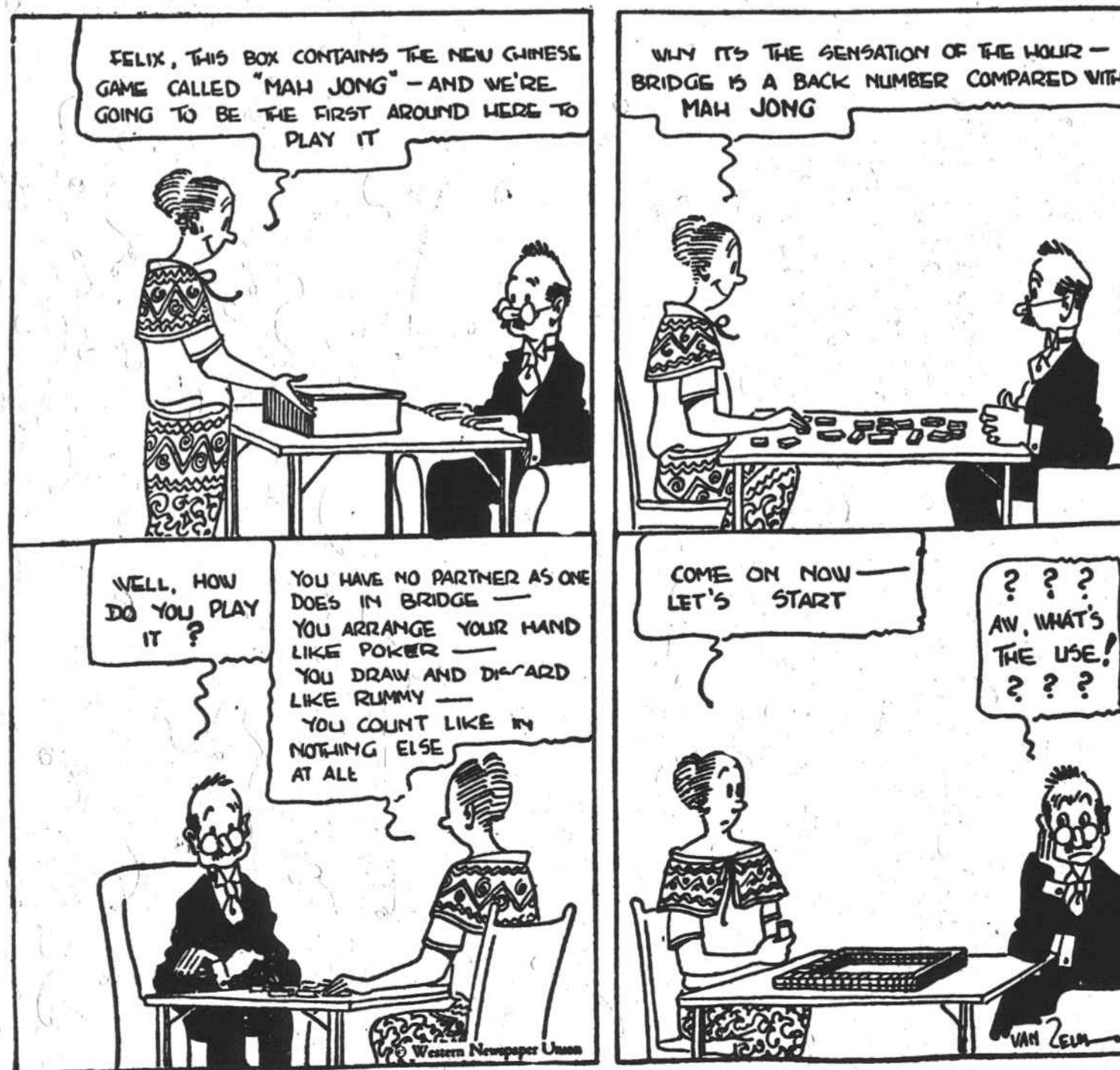


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Who Says They Don't?



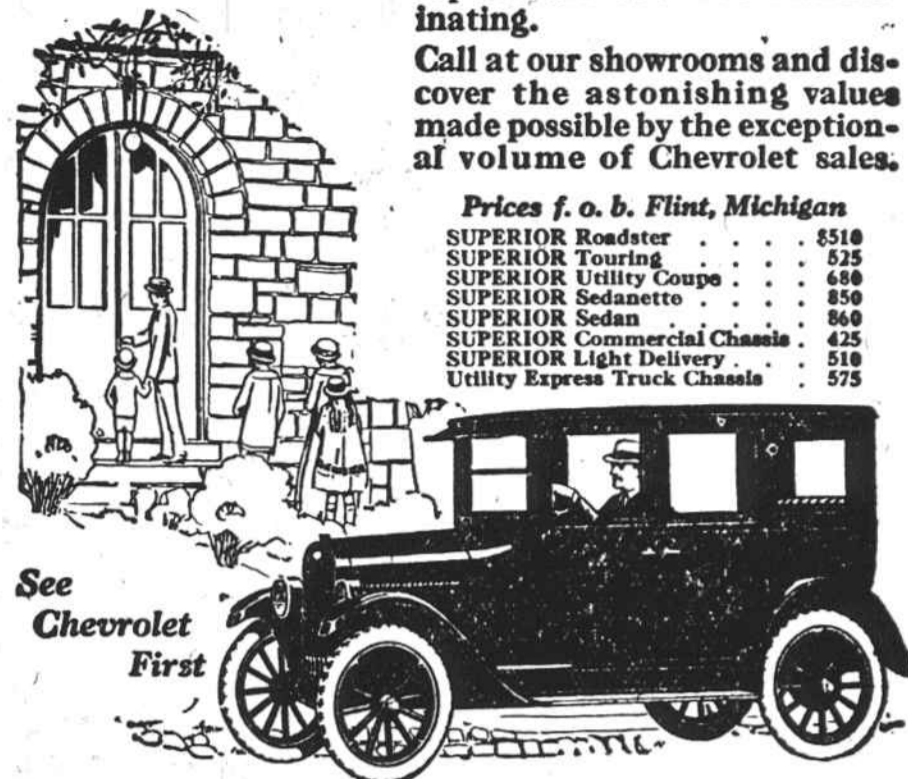
But It's Some Game, Just the Same



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MELLON NOT TALKATIVE MAN

Secretary of the Treasury Will Never Make Reputation as a Great Conversationalist.

Two Scotsmen, noted for their rarity of speech, were playing golf. Up to the seventeenth hole neither spoke a word.

It began to rain and Sandy observed: "Shall we quit?"

"Chatterbox," muttered his opponent, as he drove off the final.

Secretary Mellon is silent like that, writes "Girard" in the Philadelphia Enquirer. If, as our copybooks informed us, silence is golden, that able banker came by his great wealth in the most natural way.

"This is not a talkative cabinet" that from a Philadelphia coal man often brought into contact with Mr. Hoover and others of the presidential family.

"But," he continued, "Secretary Mellon can say less in a day than all the rest of them put together."

If a woman can't drive a nail she might try coaxing it.

All the world loves a lover. All the world loves to be amused.

Elsewhere Sometimes.

The village was having its spring tea party and was getting rather tired of it. Finally they decided to propose conundrums and one of the company asked, "Which is the most warlike nation?"

"Vaccination," replied the village doctor, who was one of the party.

"How do you account for that?" said the man who had put the question.

"Because it's nearly always in arms," said the medic.

The Difficulty.

"The feller that owned this hotel before I took it over," related the landlord of the Petunia Tavern, "wanted to name it after himself and call it the 'White House.'"

"Did he?" nonchalantly asked a guest.

"No; he couldn't. You see, his name was Brown."—Kansas City Star.

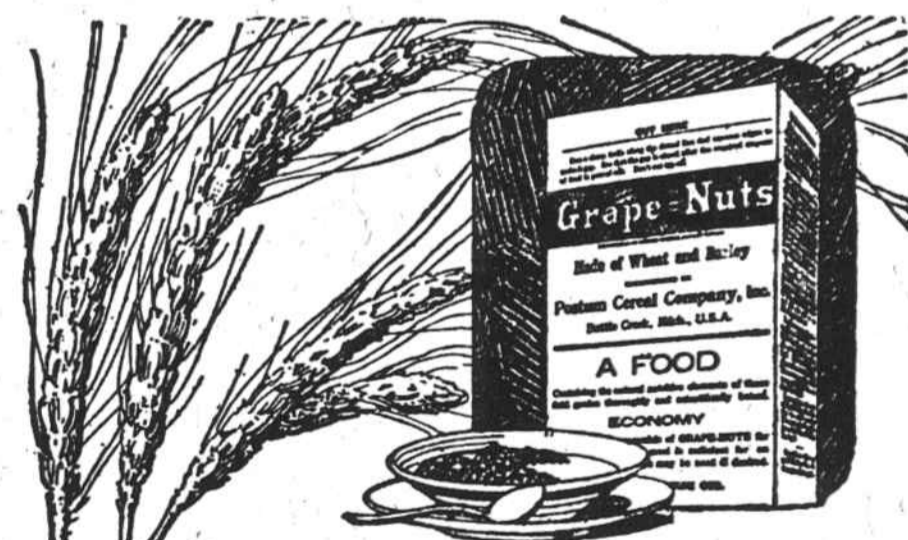
A Nature Faker.

Teacher—Now, children, with what part of its body does a bee buzz?

Tommy—With its buzz, sir.

So Far, So Good.

"Will you marry me?" "I like your nerve!" "How about my other qualifications?"



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