

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION: SUPPORTING THE WORK OF CHRIST

Some time afterward he went on through towns and villages, preaching and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and disabilities: Mary (called Magdalene), from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna the wife of Cuza (Herod's household manager), Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their own resources.

LUKE 8:1-3 (NET)

Luke 8:1-3 offers a meaningful glimpse into the ministry of Jesus—one that focuses on a group of individuals whose role is often overlooked yet absolutely essential to the advance of the gospel.

Luke writes that Jesus traveled from town to town, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, but they were not alone. Alongside them were women such as Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna, along with many others, who “provided for them out of their own resources.”

This short statement carries profound weight. It reminds us that the ministry of Jesus was not only proclaimed through preaching and teaching but also sustained through the faithful generosity of those who believed in him.

These women were not passive observers. They were active participants in the mission. They used what God had entrusted to them to support the work Christ was doing. Their giving made it possible for Jesus and the disciples to travel, teach, and minister without distraction.

In many ways, these women represent the earliest examples of ministry partners, those who, though not often in the spotlight, play an indispensable role in advancing God's work. For those of us who have the privilege of supporting ministry through our giving, Luke 8 offers a beautiful affirmation. Your generosity matters. It is not secondary or peripheral. It is central to the mission.

This passage invites us to reflect on a simple but powerful truth: God accomplishes his purposes through both those who go and those who send.

Throughout Scripture, we see this pattern repeated. Some are called to preach, teach, and lead on the front lines. Others are called to support, resource, and sustain that work. Both roles are essential. Both roles are honored positions from God.

At Dallas Theological Seminary, we see this same dynamic at work every day. Students are being trained to rightly handle the Word of God, to shepherd people, and to proclaim the gospel around the world. Yet behind each of these students is a network of faithful partners whose generosity makes their training possible.

Just as in Luke 8, there are those who are called to lead, and there are those who make it possible for them to preach, teach, and proclaim God's Word.

When you give, you are not merely funding an institution. You are participating in the work of Christ. You are helping to equip godly servant leaders who teach Scripture, disciple believers, and deliver the message of salvation to people across the globe.

And the impact extends far beyond what we can see.

The women in Luke 8 likely never imagined the full reach of their generosity. They could not have foreseen the spread of the gospel across nations and generations. Yet their faithfulness was woven into the very fabric of that story.

The same is true today.

Your generosity impacts lives in ways that cannot be fully known this side of eternity. It strengthens students, encourages faculty, and ultimately benefits countless individuals who will hear and respond to the truth of God's Word.

There is also something deeply personal in this kind of giving. The women who supported Jesus did so because they had experienced his grace. Their generosity was a response to what he had already done in their lives. Their example reminds us that giving is not merely a transaction. It is an expression of gratitude, worship, and trust.

As we reflect on Luke 8:1-3, we are invited to see ourselves in this story, not as distant observers, but as participants. God continues to advance his mission today, and he continues to invite his people to be part of it. Some are called to lead from the front. Others are called to support in the background. All are called to participate.

Thank you for being faithful partners in this work. Your generosity is making an eternal difference.