



**Jesus and Mary Magdalene**



**Were All Jewish Men Married?**

## *DVC – All Jewish Men Married*

“Jesus as a married man makes infinitely more sense than our standard biblical view of Jesus as a bachelor.” “Why?” Sophie asked. “Because Jesus was a Jew,” Langdon said, taking over while Teabing searched for his book, “and the social decorum during that time virtually forbid a Jewish man to be unmarried.”



## *DVC – All Jewish Men Married*

“According to Jewish custom, celibacy was condemned, and the obligation for a Jewish father was to find a suitable wife for his son. If Jesus were not married, at least one of the Bible’s gospels would have mentioned it and offered some explanation for His unnatural state of bachelorhood.”

(Page 245)



## *Reality – Many Jewish Men Were Unmarried*

Is Robert Langdon right to say that Jewish men were expected to be married and that celibacy was 'condemned'? Unfortunately, this again is simply part of the narrative fiction of *The Da Vinci Code*; it has no basis in historical reality...For we do know of Jewish men from the time and place of Jesus who were single, and it is quite clear that they were not 'condemned' for it.

Bart Ehrman, *Truth and Fiction in the Da Vinci Code*, page 155



## *Reality – Many Jewish Men Were Unmarried*

It also deserves our admiration, how much they exceed all other men that addict themselves to virtue, and this in righteousness; and indeed to such a degree, that as it hath never appeared among any other men, neither Greeks nor barbarians, no, not for a little time, so hath it endured a long while among them. ... There are about four thousand men that live in this way, and neither marry wives, nor are desirous to keep servants.



Josephus, Antiquities, Book 18, Chapter 1, Verses 20-21

## *Reality – Many Jewish Men Were Unmarried*

Remember that Paul, Barnabas, Timothy, and their companions were also Jewish men who were not married. This was in no way something that was ‘condemned’ or even ‘unusual’ in their culture.



## *Reality – Many Jewish Men Were Unmarried*

Jesus could well be single and fit into the practice of pious Jews. Not every Jew had to be married. There were times when the virtue of remaining single was followed by some and respected by other Jews. There were good religious reasons why some Jews did not marry, most often out of intense religious dedication. Some also remained single for reasons of practicality given the nature of their chosen ministry.







**Does the Historical Record Indicate Jesus Was Married?**

## *DVC – History Replete With Records of Jesus' Marriage*

“As I mentioned,” Teabing clarified,  
“the early Church needed to  
convince the world that the mortal  
prophet Jesus was a divine being.  
Therefore, any gospels that  
described earthly aspects of Jesus’  
life had to be omitted from the bible.”



## *DVC – History Replete With Records of Jesus' Marriage*

Unfortunately for the early editors, one particularly troubling earthly theme kept recurring in the Gospels. Mary Magdalene.” He paused. “More specifically, her marriage to Jesus Christ.” “I beg your pardon?” Sophie’s eyes moved to Langdon and then back to Teabing. “It’s a matter of historical record,” Teabing said...

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## *DVC – History Replete With Records of Jesus' Marriage*

“Sir Leigh Teabing was still talking. ‘I shan’t bore you with the countless references to Jesus and Magdalene’s union. This has been explored ad nauseam by modern historians...’”

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## *Reality – No Record of Jesus' Marriage*

Most significant is a fact that cannot be overlooked or underestimated: in none of our early Christian sources is there any reference to Jesus' marriage or to his wife. This is true not only of the canonical Gospels...but of all of our other Gospels and all of our other early Christian writings put together....List every ancient source we have for the historical Jesus, and in none of them is there mention of Jesus being married.



Bart Ehrman, *Truth and Fiction in the Da Vinci Code*, page 153

## *Reality – No Record of Jesus' Marriage*

Now, if there were even one spark of evidence from antiquity that Jesus even may have gotten married, then as a historian, I would have to weigh this evidence against the total absence of such information in either Scripture or the early church traditions. But there is no such spark - not a scintilla of evidence – anywhere in the historical sources. Even where one might expect to find such claims in the bizarre, second century, apocryphal gospels...there is no reference that Jesus ever got married.





**What About the Gospel of Philip?**

## *DVC – IT Says Jesus and Mary Were Married*

“Sophie read the passage: ‘And the companion of the Saviour is Mary Magdalene. Christ loved her more than all the disciples, and used to kiss her often on her mouth. The rest of the disciples were offended by it and expressed disapproval. They said to him ‘Why do you love her more than all of us?’ The words surprised Sophie, and yet they hardly seemed conclusive. “It says nothing of marriage.” “Au contraire.” Teabing smiled, pointing to the first line. “As any Aramaic scholar will tell you, the word companion in those days, literally meant spouse.”



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## *Reality – It Says Nothing About Marriage*

And the companion of the [...] Mary Magdalene. [...] loved her more than all the disciples, and used to kiss her often on her [...]. The rest of the disciples [...]. They said to him "Why do you love her more than all of us?"

(Note: The brackets [...] indicate broken locations in the manuscript where there is no reading because the manuscript is damaged. This – not the one in DVC – is the actual text!)



## *Reality – It Says Nothing About Marriage*

For it is by a kiss that the perfect conceive and give birth. For this reason we all kiss one another. We receive conception from the grace which is in one another.

*Gospel of Philip*

quoted in Darrell L. Bock, *Breaking the Da Vinci Code*, page 22



## *Reality – It Says Nothing About Marriage*

The Gospel of Philip is not written in Aramaic – it is Coptic. And the key word ‘companion’ is actually the Greek word *koinonos*, which means “companion; partner; sharer”. The Greek word for wife is actually *gyne* (from which we derive terms such as gynecology). In the NT, *gyne* is translated as wife 56 times; *koinonos* is used 10 times and is **never** translated as wife.



## *Reality – It Says Nothing About Marriage*

The Gospel of Philip was probably composed almost 200 years after Christ, and contains little of historical value – it is only useful as an interesting look at what Gnostics believed over 200 years after Christ, not for the actual events of Jesus' life.





**Positive Reasons That Show Jesus was NOT  
Married to Mary Magdalene**

*All Of Jesus' Relations Are Mentioned – But  
Not a Wife!*

<sup>3</sup> Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this  
**Mary's son** and the **brother** of  
James, Joseph, Judas and Simon?  
Aren't **his sisters** here with us?"  
And they took offense at him.

Mark 6:3



*All Of Jesus' Relations Are Mentioned – But  
Not a Wife!*

<sup>42</sup> They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, **whose father and mother we know**? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

John 6:42



*All Of Jesus' Relations Are Mentioned – But  
Not a Wife!*

<sup>25</sup> Near the cross of Jesus stood **his mother, his mother's sister**, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

John 19:25

(Note the other women's relation to Jesus is mentioned, but not Mary Magdalene's!)





## *Mary Identified by Home Town – Not Husband!*

<sup>55</sup> Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. <sup>56</sup> Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary **the mother of James and Joses**, and **the mother of Zebedee's sons**.

Matthew 27:55-56



*Mary Identified by Home Town – Not  
Husband!*

<sup>25</sup> Near the cross of Jesus stood **his mother**, his mother's sister, **Mary the wife of Clopas**, and Mary Magdalene.

John 19:25



## *Mary Identified by Home Town – Not Husband!*

<sup>2</sup> and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (**called Magdalene**) from whom seven demons had come out;

Luke 8:2



## *Jesus Does Not Provide For Mary Magdalene at the Cross*

<sup>25</sup> Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," <sup>27</sup> and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

John 19:25-27



A painting depicting a scene from the Bible. Jesus is seated on a large, dark rock on the left, wearing a white robe and a white head covering. He has long brown hair and a beard, and his right hand is raised in a gesture of conversation. Facing him is a woman standing on the right, also wearing a white head covering and a brown robe with a pink sash. She is holding a large, light-colored earthenware jar. The background shows a rural landscape with trees and a clear sky. The entire scene is framed by a dark, rounded border.

**What Difference Would It Make If  
Jesus Had Been Married?**



**What Do We Know  
About Mary  
Magdalene?**



## She Was Not A Prostitute

She was not a prostitute as is commonly believed. This is not in the Scripture, but arose from a sermon by Pope Gregory the Great in 591 AD. However, Gregory did not do this to smear Mary, but rather to use her as an example of how Christ could change lives.



# Jesus Had Cast Seven Demons Out of Her

<sup>1</sup> After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, <sup>2</sup> and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out..

Luke 8:1-2






# She Was A Faithful Disciple

<sup>1</sup> After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. **The Twelve were with him, <sup>2</sup> and also some women** who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: **Mary (called Magdalene)** from whom seven demons had come out..




## She Was A Witness of the Crucifixion

<sup>39</sup> And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!" <sup>40</sup> **Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.**



# She Was A Witness of the Resurrection


<sup>1</sup> Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, **Mary Magdalene went to the tomb** and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance... <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back to their homes, <sup>11</sup> but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.



## She Was A Witness of the Resurrection

<sup>13</sup> They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." <sup>14</sup> At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

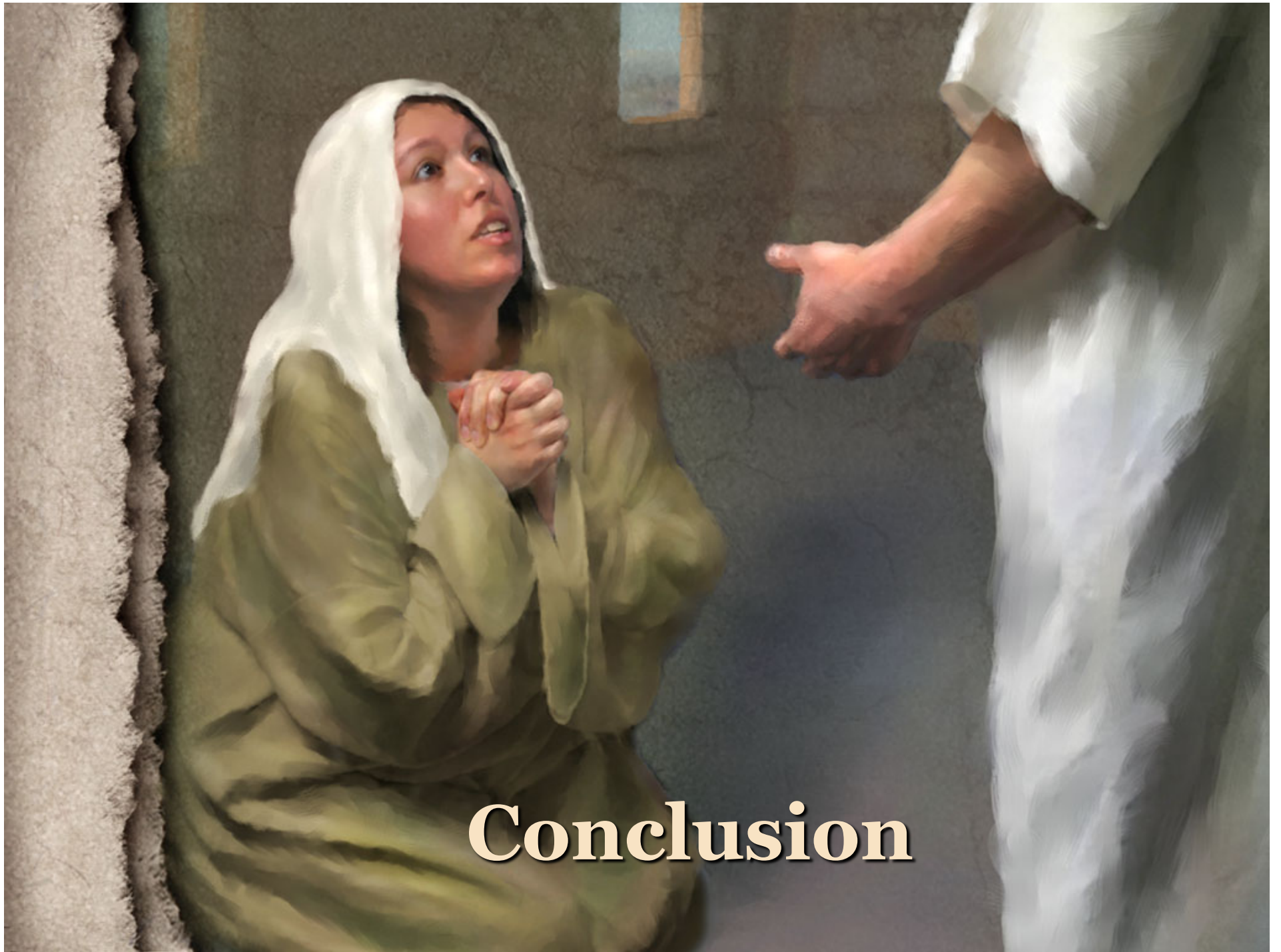
<sup>15</sup> "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."



# She Was A Witness of the Resurrection

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

John 20:1, 10-18



**Conclusion**



# Conclusion

- Many religious Jewish men of Jesus' day did not get married.
- There is no historical reason to believe that Jesus married anyone, much less that He was married specifically to Mary Magdalene. We have no historical sources which make this claim; it is a modern flight of fancy – not a historical fact.



# Conclusion

- In fact, we have many positive historical reasons which point to the fact that Jesus was not married.
- The reason that Christians do not believe that Jesus was married is not because Christianity denies the humanity of Christ. As a human Jesus could have been married. Christians do not believe He was married for historical – not theological – reasons.





# Conclusion

- Mary Magdalene was not the wife of Christ or the mother of His child, but she is an important figure. She was a devoted follower of Christ, and a key witness of the crucifixion, the burial, and the resurrection of Christ. As such, she points us to the real identity of Jesus Christ.