

## Jesus and Mary Magdalene

### A. Were Jesus and Mary Magdalene married?

1. DVC claims that Jesus and Mary Magdalene were married
2. It claims that all Jewish men were married, and that the marriage of Jesus and Mary Magdalene was a well documented historical reality.
3. Are these claims true? What do we know about Mary Magdalene? Are there documents that say they were married? What difference would it make if they were? Has the church spent millennia trying to destroy this secret?

### A. Were all Jewish men married?

1. DVC – Yes – “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 he social decorum during that time virtually forbid a Jewish man to be unmarried. 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)
2. Reality – No
  - a. “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).

- b. Josephus on the Essenes – “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)
- c. 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.
- d. “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.” (Darrell L. Bock, *Breaking the Da Vinci Code*, page 57).

## B. Does the Historical Record Indicate Jesus Was Married?

### 1. DVC – Yes –

- a. “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. 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... (Page 244)

- b. "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...'" (Page 247).

## 2. Reality – No Historical Record of Jesus Being Married

- a. "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).
- b. "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." (Paul L. Maier, *The Da Vinci Code: Fact or Fiction*, 16).

## C. What About the *Gospel of Philip*?

1. 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*." (Page 246).
2. Reality – It says nothing at all of Jesus and Mary being married
  - a. 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!)
  - b. The meaning of a kiss in the Gospel of Philip is revelation – not sexual love: "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).

- c. 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.
- d. 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 almost 200 years after Christ, not for the actual events of Jesus’ life.

D. Positive reasons that show Jesus was NOT married to Mary Magdalene

- 1. Every family member of Jesus is mentioned repeatedly – but no text ever mentions a wife
  - a. Mark 6:3 - <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.
  - b. John 6:42 - <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'?"

- c. John 19:25 - <sup>25</sup> Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, **his mother's sister**, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. (Note the other women's relation to Jesus is mentioned, but not Mary Magdalene's!)
2. Mary Magdalene is never linked to any male for identification – though all others are! Rather, she is identified by her home town of Magdala.
- a. Matthew 27:55-56 - <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 Joseph**, and **the mother of Zebedee's sons**.
  - b. John 19:25 - <sup>25</sup> Near the cross of Jesus stood **his mother**, his mother's sister, **Mary the wife of Clopas**, and Mary Magdalene.
  - c. Luke 8:2 - <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;
3. Jesus shows care for his mother, but not Mary Magdalene, at the cross
- a. John 19:25-27 - <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.
  - b. Jesus has a responsibility to take care of the women who depend on him, including any family members who do not have a husband, or a wife (if he had one). Notice that he takes care of Mary His mother, but does nothing for Mary Magdalene. It is unthinkable that Jesus would have neglected Mary Magdalene if she had been His wife.

## E. What Difference Would It Make If Jesus Had Been Married?

1. DVC – It would destroy Christianity. This is the great secret that the church has supposedly murdered millions to maintain over the last 2,000 years. This was done because the church wanted to foster a view of Jesus as purely Divine rather than human.
2. Reality – The church has *never* taught that Jesus was purely Divine. It has always believed that He was both fully God and fully man at the same time. In fact, it was the Gnostics who taught that Jesus was only Divine and was not truly human. Therefore, many Gnostics would have decried Jesus being involved in such a human institution as marriage. Christians do not deny the marriage of Christ for theological reasons, but for historical reasons. The historical record is clear: He was never married!

## F. What Do We Know About Mary Magdalene?

1. 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.
2. Jesus had cast seven demons out of her  
Luke 8:1-2 - <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;**
3. She was a faithful disciple of Jesus  
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4. She was a witness of the crucifixion  
Mark 15:39-40 <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, & Salome.**
5. She was a witness of the resurrection  
John 20:1, 10-18 - <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. <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." <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.

Consider how important this fact is: In a time when women were considered unworthy to be witnesses, the first witness to the resurrection is the woman Mary Magdalene! She then carries the message to the Apostles, and thus became known in church history as the apostle (messenger) to the Apostles! Mary is not the Grail – but she is a prime witness to the real identity of Christ, a point we will look at in the final section.

## G. Conclusion

1. Many religious Jewish men of Jesus' day did not get married.
2. 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.
3. In fact, we have many positive historical reasons which point to the fact that Jesus was not married.
4. 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.
5. 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.