

Cracking the DaVinci Code

Week 2 – Jesus and Women

May 14, 2006

Seek the truth! *Jesus said, “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

John chapter 8 verse 32 (817)

Comparing The DaVinci Code & The Bible to the historical evidence

DC states that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene and that they had a daughter together

- Was Jesus married? Did he have a child?
- Who was Mary Magdalene?
- What are the ramifications of this on the Bible, Christianity?

DC states that Jesus was married because virtually all Jewish men of his day were married, & as a Rabbi, he would've had to be married

- The Bible mentions nothing of Jesus being married
- While true that most Jewish men in Jesus day were married, Jesus himself was known not to follow Jewish protocol, in fact, his numerous clashes with the established religious leaders were over issues where Jesus would not conform to the norm
- While referred to as “rabbi,” technically Jesus was not a rabbi because he had no official role or position in the temple, & he never refers to himself as a rabbi. In Jesus day, teachers were referred to as “rabbi”
- History supports the idea that teachers were referred to as “rabbi”
- There is absolutely no historical evidence that Jesus was married

DC states that Mary Magdalene was Jesus' wife & mother of his child

Who was Mary Magdalene?

- Jesus cast out demons from her - *Luke chapter 8 verse 2*
- She & other women became Christ-followers and was a witness to the crucifixion
- *Matthew chapter 27 verses 55 & 56*
- She & other women watched as Jesus was buried - *Luke chapter 23 verses 55 & 56*
- She was one of the first at Jesus' tomb on Easter morning - *Luke chapter 20 verses 1 & 2*
- She was the first to see the risen Jesus - *John chapter 20 verses 15 & 16*

DC states that the early church cast Mary Magdalene as a prostitute to discredit her and to call her character into question

- The Bible says nothing about Mary Magdalene being a prostitute
- Most historical scholars attribute the idea of Mary Magdalene being a prostitute to Pope Gregory the Great in 591 AD
- That's when Pope Gregory put forth the idea that Mary Magdalene was the “immoral woman” in Luke 7 that pours the expensive perfume on Jesus' feet & wipes it with her hair. We are first introduced to Mary Magdalene in Luke 8
- This is pure speculation. The Bible does not make this connection

DC states that the church has set out to hide Jesus' marriage & family for 2000 years

- The Bible says nothing about Jesus being married and / or having a child
- But let's assume that he was? What would this change?
- What does a married Jesus do that a single Jesus doesn't?
- What does a married Jesus not do that a single Jesus does?
- The Bible says that marriage is a holy covenant ordained by God between one man & one woman. This was so from the very beginning - *Genesis chapter 2 verse 24*
- **"Give honor to marriage...."** *Hebrews chapter 13 verse 4*
- Sex in marriage is holy & pure. It's God's gift to the married couple - *1 Corinthians 7*
- This is God's plan for marriage & sex as outlined in the Bible
- For Jesus to be married & have a child violates none of this

Personally, I don't believe that Jesus was married / had a child because...

- Jesus shows no special concern for Mary Magdalene while on the cross. He only mentions his mother, even though Mary Magdalene is right next to her
- *John chapter 19 verses 25 – 27*
- There is no mention of Jesus having a wife in 1 Corinthians chapter 9 verse 5 - **"Don't we have the right to bring a Christian wife with us as the other disciples & the Lord's brothers do, and as Peter does?"**
- This verse clearly shows that the early church was not ashamed to admit that its leaders were married. If Jesus was married, why wouldn't he be listed here?

Why should we care about any of this???

- Some 43 million copies of The DaVinci Code have been sold...lots of your friends, family & co-workers have already read the book
- Later this week, the movie will be released...and even more of your friends, family & co-workers will be exposed to Dan Brown's ideas
- **"And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it."**
1 Peter chapter 3 verse 15 (936)
- **"Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so you will have the right response for everyone."** *Colossians chapter 4 verse 6 (904)*

Jesus & women...

- In Jesus' day, women were not considered to be equal to men. They were treated as property
- Women were not considered reliable eye-witnesses and thus not able to testify in court
- A man could divorce his wife for just about anything, including if she burned his meal. In some places, the man was divorced after simply clapping his hands three times
- Men held the power, women were considered inferior
- It's into this world that Jesus came...He took the time to speak to the woman at the well, and his male disciples were "astonished" (*see John chapter 4*)
- And he had a group of women who were publicly known to be his followers (*see Matthew chapter 27 verses 55 & 56*)
- Jesus sent a woman to the men as the first eye-witness to his resurrection (*see John chapter 20 verses 17 & 18*)
- In Christ, men & women are declared equal (*see Galatians chapter 3 verse 28*)

Next Sunday: We start our new study, **Telling the Truth**, by taking a look at the topic, Telling the Truth...to Myself