

Was Jesus Married?

Part 2

III. Additional Evidence Against Jesus Being Married.

- A. The Bible speaks of the wives of the apostles and His brothers (1 Cor. 9:5), but not Jesus having a wife.
1. This passage indicates the church did not believe it was wrong for its leaders to be married.
 - a. Elders and deacons were required to be married. (1 Tim. 3:1-7, 8-13; Tit. 1:6).
 - b. Ministers were not required to be married, but it was right for them to be married. (Heb.13:4; 1 Cor. 9).
 - c. Christians were not required to marry, but it was recommended for most. (1 Cor. 7:1-5).
 - d. Younger widows were encouraged to marry. (1 Tim. 5:14).
 2. Since marriage is ordained of God (Gen. 2:18-24; Matt 19:6; Heb. 13:4), it would not have been wrong for Jesus to be married.
 - a. Sex is acceptable to God in marriage. (Heb. 13:4; 1 Cor. 7:1-5).
 - b. The idea that marriage is an inferior relationship is not of God, but it is of the devil.
 - c. One of the signs of the apostasy would be prohibition of marriage. (1 Tim. 4:3).
 3. There would be no reason for the apostles or the church to be ashamed of the marriage of Jesus and attempt to conceal it.
 - a. Some may have used this [His marriage] to strip Jesus of His Deity.
 - b. But the life, death, resurrection of Christ, and His miracles would manifest He was no mere man.
 - c. See gospel of John and John 20:30, 31.
- B. Some have argued that Jesus was a rabbi of the Jews, and this means He then would be married.
1. It is true Jesus was sometimes called "rabbi." (Mk. 11:21; Jn. 3:2).

MAR 11:21 And being reminded, Peter said to Him, "Rabbi, behold, the fig tree which You cursed has withered."	JOH 3:2 this man came to Him by night, and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."
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2. This does not mean he was technically a rabbi in the eyes of the Jewish religious leaders.

3. He was not recognized by the Jewish religious leaders as an official rabbi, and they challenged His authority to cleanse the temple and His authority to do many other things. (Matt. 21:12,13, 23).
 4. There is no evidence that every rabbi was married.
 5. There is solid evidence that some Jewish men chose to be unmarried.
 - a. Some have tried to prove that all Jewish men, especially teachers and leaders, were married.
 - b. They then deduct that Jesus must have been married though there is no evidence for this conclusion.
- C. The Bible manifests that Jesus chose to be a eunuch “for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt. 19:10-12).

MAT 19:10 The disciples said to Him, "If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry."

MAT 19:11 But He said to them, "Not all men can accept this statement, but only those to whom it has been given.

MAT 19:12 "For there are eunuchs who were born that way from their mother's womb; and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men; and **there are also eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.** He who is able to accept this, let him accept it."

1. Paul remained single, but he had the right to marry.
2. He taught others to be single was preferable due to the impending distress. (1 Cor. 7:26).
3. He had a very exalted view of marriage. (Eph. 5:22-33).
 - a. 1 Tim. 5:14
 - b. 1 Cor. 7:28.

IV. The Evidence For Jesus Being Married Refuted

A. There is absolutely none in the scriptures.

B. Why did Jesus remain single?

1. Here are some facts that really do not pertain to His celibacy.
 - a. There were some who practiced a dedicated single life in Judaism.
 - b. Members of the ascetic Jewish sect of the Essenes were known for their emphasis on celibacy (Josephus, Antiquities 18.1.5.21; Jewish War 2.8.2.121-122; Philo, Hypothetica 11.14-18).
 - c. At Qumran, most appear to have been celibate, although a Dead Sea Scroll about the community suggests some possibility (1QSa 1:4-10) of marriage, woman, and children in the messianic times.
 - d. For those Essenes at Qumran, the point of remaining single was also dedication to God.
2. The Bible does not explain why Jesus remained single, and our speculations are fallible.
 - a. It may be because a wife and children would present many problems as He tried to accomplish God's

will. See 1 Cor. 7.

- b. A family would have led Him to be worry about many things (1 Cor. 7:28), and will distract from His redemption mission.
- 3. Jesus knew His time on earth was short, and He had come to die for the redemption of man. (Matt. 20:27, 28; Lk. 19:10).
 - a. He did not come to start and neglect a physical family.
 - b. He did not come to leave behind a wife and children.
 - c. Jesus was busy preparing His disciples for His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension into heaven.

V. Some Additional Observations

- A. Jesus was very close to a number of people, but this does not mean He was married to them or had a sexual attraction to them.
- B. Here are some people who were especially close to Jesus.

The apostles	Matt. 10:2-4
Peter, James, and John	Matt. 17:1-8
Mary, Martha and Lazarus	Lk. 10:38-42; Jn. 11:5, 36
Some women who supported Him.	Luke 8:1-3.
The rich young ruler	Mk. 10:21
John, the apostle	Jn. 13:23; 20:2; 21:7, 20

- 1. Mary Magdalene shows the unnamed disciple in John 20:2 was not herself when she spoke to Peter and the disciple “whom Jesus loved.”

JOH 20:1 Now on the first day of the week **Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb**, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb.

JOH 20:2 And so she ran and came to Simon Peter, and **to the other disciple whom Jesus loved**, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."

- 2. The word “love” or the suggestion of “love” for all of the above does not denote He had a sexual relationship with those He was close to.

VI. The Alleged Marriage of Jesus Is Based On Imagination And The Twisting Of Uninspired Books

- A. There is as much evidence that Jesus was an alien from outer space as there is that He was married.
- B. Jesus and Mary Magdalene are mentioned in some uninspired books, but even these books written long after the death of Jesus and His ascension do not prove that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene or that she was His lover.
- C. Dan Brown wrote the book “The Da Vinci Code” and in it he claimed Jesus was married to Mary

Magdalene and they had a child together.” (2003, pp. 244-245).

1. His conclusions are based on uninspired books written long after the life of Christ.
2. His conclusions are based on his twisting of the language even in these uninspired books.
 - a. He based his claim on the following brief statements from the non-inspired, gnostic “Gospel of Philip.” which apparently was written during the 2nd or 3rd century. (cf. Meyer, 2005b, p. 63; Isenberg, n.d.)
 - b. The brackets represent missing words.

“Three women always walked with the master: Mary his mother, [] sister, and Mary of Magdala, who is called his companion. For “Mary” is the name of his sister, his mother and his companion.” (Meyer, 2005b, p. 57).
 - c. “The companion of the [] is Mary of Magdala. The [] her more than [] the disciples, [] kissed her often on her []. The other []...said to him, “Why do you love her more than all of us? (Meyer, 2005b, p. 63).
 - d. He then goes on to maintain that “any **Aramaic** scholar will tell you, the word *companion*, in those days, literally meant **spouse**” (p. 246, emp. added).
 - e. He then concludes Jesus and Mary Magdalene must have been married.

f. **This is fallacious.**

- 1) The “Gospel of Philip” was not written in Aramaic, but in Coptic, an ancient Egyptian language.
 - 2) The Coptic word for “companion” is not synonymous with either “wife” or “spouse”
 - 3) The word here for companion (*koinonos*) is actually a loan word from Greek and is neither a technical term nor a synonym for wife or spouse.
 - 4) It is true the term could be used to refer to a wife, since *koinonos*, like “companion,” is an umbrella term, but it does not specify this fact.
 - 5) There was another Greek word, *gune*, which would have made this clear. It is much more likely that *koinonos* means “sister” in the spiritual sense since that is how it is used elsewhere in this sort of literature. In any case, this text does not clearly say or even suggest that Jesus was married, much less married to Mary Magdalene.
- g. One might assume that *The Gospel of Philip* hints or teaches there was a sexual relationship between Mary and Jesus, since Brown alleges that it states Jesus “used to kiss her often on her mouth.” (p. 248).
 - h. The word “mouth” is not in text. Several words are missing from the Coptic manuscript including words that designate where He allegedly kissed her. The missing word could be hand, head, cheek, or nose.
 - i. We have no idea if Jesus ever kissed Mary Magdalene, but even if He did kiss her it would not mean they were married or were romantically involved in any way. Christians often kissed one another.

<p>The woman of Luke 7 repeatedly kissed the feet of Jesus, but it was a humble act of repentance and service. (Lk. 7:36-39). His enemies nor Luke made anything sexual of it.</p>	<p>Christians practiced “the holy kiss” (Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 16:20; 1 Thess. 5:26).</p>	<p>Kissing per se is not equivalent to marrying and having children. It was a way of greeting.</p>
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Conclusion

- I. There is no evidence that Jesus was ever married or had a secret lover.
- II. There is no evidence Jesus ever had a romantic connection with Mary Magdalene or any other woman.
- III. Mary Magdalene was a devout, faithful follower of Christ - not a harlot or former harlot or wife or lover of Jesus.
- IV. Most of those who contend Jesus was married look upon Him as a mere man who was not the Son of God and did not die for our sins nor was He resurrected. This is blasphemy against God and His beloved Son.

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