

FAITH FACT OR FICTION

Questions Raised by The DaVinci Code

Part 3 – Is Jesus Really Human?

IS JESUS HUMAN

In some ways this is an easier question to answer. He was after all born (of a virgin) he walked, he talked, he ate and drank, and He died. Joan Osborn's song—"One of Us" (Eric Bazilian)

a. "What if God were one of us? Just a slob like one of us? Just a stranger on the bus, trying to make his way home. . ."

b. Her idea of God is probably not like that of ours but the question she asks is revealed to us here in our text.

A. Some early Christians had a hard time accepting this fact that God actually became human. It was hard for them to accept or conceive of a god that would allow himself to be beaten or sacrificed.. **BUT – WAS HE HUMAN? Consider:**

1. That he could actually be hungry or thirsty. - (John 19:28 NIV) Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

2. That he could actually be tempted to sin. (Mat 4:1-2 NIV) Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. {2} After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

3. That he could suffer pain and despair. (Mat 27:46 NIV) About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"--which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

4. That he had an actual human body.

a. If He was then he woke up some mornings and didn't want to get out of bed.

b. He got cranky when he was hungry.

c. He had his bad days.

What does His humanity show us?

B. Because He suffered He is able to help

(Heb 2:18 NIV) Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

C. Because He was Tempted We Know He Understands

(Heb 4:15-16 NIV) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. {16} Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

When I wander off the path I know that I want the one with the power to help me to be there. But I also want someone who can sympathize. Granted, you can't be picky when

your in quicksand but if possible I'd rather have a sympathetic rescuer.

a. I'd rather not hear:

(1) "How did you get in to such a mess?"

(2) "How stupid can you be?"

(3) "You know if you'd just stuck to the path you'd never fallen into this mess?"

(4) "I ought to just leave you in there."

b. I know I'm stupid.

c. I know I should have stayed on the path.

D. Because He Endured We Are Encouraged

(Heb 12:2-3 NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. {3} Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

WAS JESUS MARRIED

(2 Cor 11:2 NIV) *I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.*

"If Jesus were not married, at least one of the Bible's gospel's would have mentioned it and offered some explanation for His unnatural state of bachelorhood."

Robert Langdon The Da Vinci Code p.245

The simple answer is no. There is absolutely no evidence that he was married. At least not as we think of it. Consider:

A. Church History and tradition

•If Jesus had married Mary Magdalene, we would expect to see some type of her veneration in the history of the early church – like we see for Mary Jesus' mother. However, there exists no reference or tradition anywhere to worship or veneration of Mary Magdalene.

B. Scripture

•**Fact:** There exists no mention of a wife in any scripture of Jesus, in his ministry, when he was tried and crucified, or after his death.

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(1 Cor 9:5 NIV) Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas ?

(If Jesus had been married, Paul would have mentioned Him here!)

- Marriage was more or less expected among Pharisaic Jews, but these did not dominate Judaism until after 70.
- At Jesus' time, John the Baptist and Paul were not married, nor were most of the Essenes and Therapeutae.

C. Gospel of Philip – Kiss on the Mouth

"Companion of savior is Mary Magdalene. Christ loved her more than all the disciples and used to kiss her often on the mouth. The disciples were offended at this." *Gospel of Philip The Da Vinci Code p. 246*

•**Fact:** The actual manuscript is broken at this passage, so we don't know where it claims Jesus kissed Mary.

•**Fact:** The Gospel of Philip is a Gnostic document, and Gnostics held that the physical expression of sex is not sacred or spiritual - it actually defiles the soul who believes by holding to the corrupt physical.

D. Companion

"Au contraire." Teabing smiled, pointed to the first line. "As any Aramaic scholar will tell you, the word *companion*, in those days, literally meant spouse."

Langdon concurred with a nod.

Sophie read the first line again. *And the companion of the Savior is Mary Magdalene. – Da Vinci Code, 246*

If the *Gospel of Philip* was originally written in Syriac (no one thinks it was written in Aramaic), the only Syriac term that allows for the meaning of both 'partner' and 'spouse' is *shawtopho*. This word is very rarely applied to the marriage context, but like the Coptic *chôtre* normally means "co-religionist" or "fellow communicant."

So, no He was not married and therefore did not have a child. But...

E. Christ's True Wife

(Eph 5:29 NIV) After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—

(2 Cor 11:2 NIV) I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.

CONCLUSIONS

Jesus shared in our humanity.

1. The very heart of the Gospel. John 1:14 "The Word became flesh"

2. Yes, Jesus knows what it's like to be tempted.

(Heb 2:17-18 NIV) For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might

make atonement for the sins of the people. {18} Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

3. God sent his son to die for our sins.
4. Sent him as one fully human, flesh and blood, just like one of us.
 - a. Only one who truly suffered could end our suffering.
 - b. Only one who was really tempted could help us in our temptations.

CONCLUSION

I. "When you think. . ." ¹

A. When you think, "I am so alone." Remember:

1. Jesus has been alone.
2. Mark 15:34 "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

B. When you think, "No one can understand the despair I am feeling." Remember:

1. Jesus has felt despair.
2. John 11:35 "Jesus wept."

C. When you think, "How could my friend do that to me?" Remember:

1. Jesus had friends that let him down.
2. Matt. 26:14–16 "Then one of the Twelve, the one they called Judas Iscariot went to the chief priests and asked, 'What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?' So they counted out for him thirty silver coins. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over."

D. When you think, "I am overwhelmed." Remember:

1. Jesus too has been overwhelmed.
2. Mark 14:33–34 "He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,' he said to them."

E. When you think, "Why did God not answer my Prayer?" Remember:

1. Jesus asked for something in prayer that he didn't get answered.
2. Mark 14:35 "Going a little farther, he fell down and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him."

F. When you think, "How could anyone possibly understand what I am going through?"

Remember:

1. Not just anyone can.
2. Just be thankful that the one that matters CAN!
Christians aren't promised a trouble free life. We are, however, promised professional help with our troubles.

Matt. 11:28–30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

¹ Mitchell Skelton, "Jesus–One of Us"

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

DaVinci seminar, Biblical Theological Seminary, notes from Dr. Robert Newman

The DaVinci Code, A Quest for Answers, Josh McDowell

Breaking the DaVinci Code, Darrell Bock

DaVinci Code Decoded, Martin Lunn

Notes from Westminster Theological Seminary

Dr. Steven Mizrach, Florida International University, Priory of Sion, Facts, Theories, Mystery

Anti-Nicene Church Father, volume 1, Irenaeus