

Examining the Da Vinci Code and the Bible **Holy Grail: “Jesus, Myth, Man and/or God”**

I. Review:

From the Da Vinci Code

- Dan Brown’s Spiritual Journey (world view)
- Bible/Christianity has been altered
- Christianity is a copycat religion
- Jesus was married and had a daughter

From the Bible

- Our identity in Christ is our world view
- The Bible is reliable and God breathed
- Jesus celebrated the Passover and fulfilled it
- Christianity is unique with a Savior God

Table Talk

- Why is the Holy Grail intriguing?
- What do you know about the Holy Grail?
- How does knowledge of the Grail enhance or change your faith in Christ?

II. Dan Brown’s Holy Grail Theory: It is the Royal Bloodline of Mary Magdalene

- Jesus was mortal – not Divine (*The Da Vinci Code*, 233, 234 & 244).
- The Bible was changed to cover up the truth – for profit and political gain (*The Da Vinci Code*, 233, 234).
- Jesus was married – blending two Royal Bloodlines (*The Da Vinci Code*, 244-248).
- Jesus had a child – passing on the Royal Bloodline (*The Da Vinci Code*, 239, 248-249, 254, 255, 257).

III. Jesus’ Divinity Refutes the Holy Grail Theory

A. Holy Communion not Holy Grail

Remember we are not to worship idols. The Holy Grail has been the center of legends, myths and quests throughout the centuries. People long to drink from, touch or own the cup Jesus drank from to receive special powers and eternal life. The Holy Grail is an idol, an object, which distracts people from a personal relationship with Christ.

B. Constantine and the Council

- Constantine: Had “conversion experience” on his quest to become emperor of Rome. Saw cross in the sky and heard “By this sign you will be the victor”. Became first Christian emperor, and began establishing funds for new churches.
- Council of Nicea: called by Constantine in 325 after becoming ruler of entire Roman Empire. The purpose was to settle theological debates between bickering bishops. Specific problems included the nature of the Trinity and setting up a list of canons (laws) on how the church should be run. At no point was the Bible established, nor was the deity of Jesus “decided”; both sides of the Trinity debate already knew him to be divine!

- So why was Constantine so involved? As new emperor of the rejoined empire, he had a stake in keeping everyone united. One way to do this was through Christianity. Were his motivations political? Probably. But did he take part in the council debates to sway the outcome? No.

C. Jesus is human and Divine

1. *External Evidence of Christ*

- a. Tacitus, A.D. 64.
- b. Pliny the Younger, A.D. 112.
- c. Josephus, a first century Jewish historian.
- d. Babylonian Talmud, A.D. 70-200

2. *Biblical Evidence of Christ*

- a. Matthew 16.13-16
- b. The “*Son of Man*” is recorded 84 times in the Gospels, referring to Christ’s Divinity and the fulfillment of prophecy (Daniel 7.13-14
- c. Colossians 1.15; 2.9; 2 Corinthians 4.4 and Philipians 2.6.

D. Mary(s) In the Bible

1. Mary Christ’s mother
2. Mary Magdalene
3. Mary of “Mary and Martha”

IV. Talking About the Code and the Bible

Some things to think about...

- Why do people worship idols? Which makes more sense, to worship something man-made or someone that was both human and divine?
- Does Christianity really stand for oppression? If so, then why is the topic of “freedom” mentioned so many times in the New Testament? Or God did not ensnare us, but *freed* us from bondage through the death of Jesus.
- Is Jesus a myth? If so, why is there so much recorded history about him? If he is not a myth, did he really die and return to life? If not, why were early church believers so willing to give up everything, even their *life* for “The Way”?

Next Week

Holy Grail: “*The Truth in Christ*”