

Truth Matters

Ed Riddick, May 7, 2006

Key Verses

1 Peter 3:15 "But in your hearts *set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer* to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,"

I. What Is Truth?

John 1:14 "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." NIV

John 14:6 "Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Christianity does not merely claim to be the truth. In reality it is Christ Himself who is the Truth. The truth is not *about* Jesus, but Jesus himself – his personality, his power, his presence. He very essence is truth.

Ravi Zacharias, *Jesus Among Other Gods*

"At the heart of every major religion is a leading exponent. As the exposition is studied something very significant emerges. There comes a bifurcation, or a distinction, between the person and the teaching. Mohammed to the Koran. Buddha to the Noble Path. Krishna to the object lessons. Zoroaster to his ethics.

Whatever we may make of their claims, one reality is inescapable. They are teachers who point to their teaching or show some particular way. In all of these, there emerges an instruction, a way of living. It is not Zoroaster to whom you turn. It is Zoroaster to whom you listen. It is not Buddha who delivers you, it is his "Noble Truths" that instruct you. It is not Mohammed who transforms you, it is the beauty of the Koran that woos you.

By contrast, Jesus did not only teach or point or expound on His message. He was identical with His message. "In Him," say the Scriptures, "dwelt the fullness of the Godhead bodily." He did not just proclaim the truth. He said, "I am the Truth." He did not just show a way. He said, "I am the Way." He did not just open up vistas. He said, "I am the door." "I am the Good Shepherd." "I am the resurrection and the life." "I am the I am."

In Him is not just an offer of life's bread. He is the bread. That is why, for a Christian it is not just a way of feeding and living. Following Christ begins with a way of relating and being.

John 8:32 “You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”

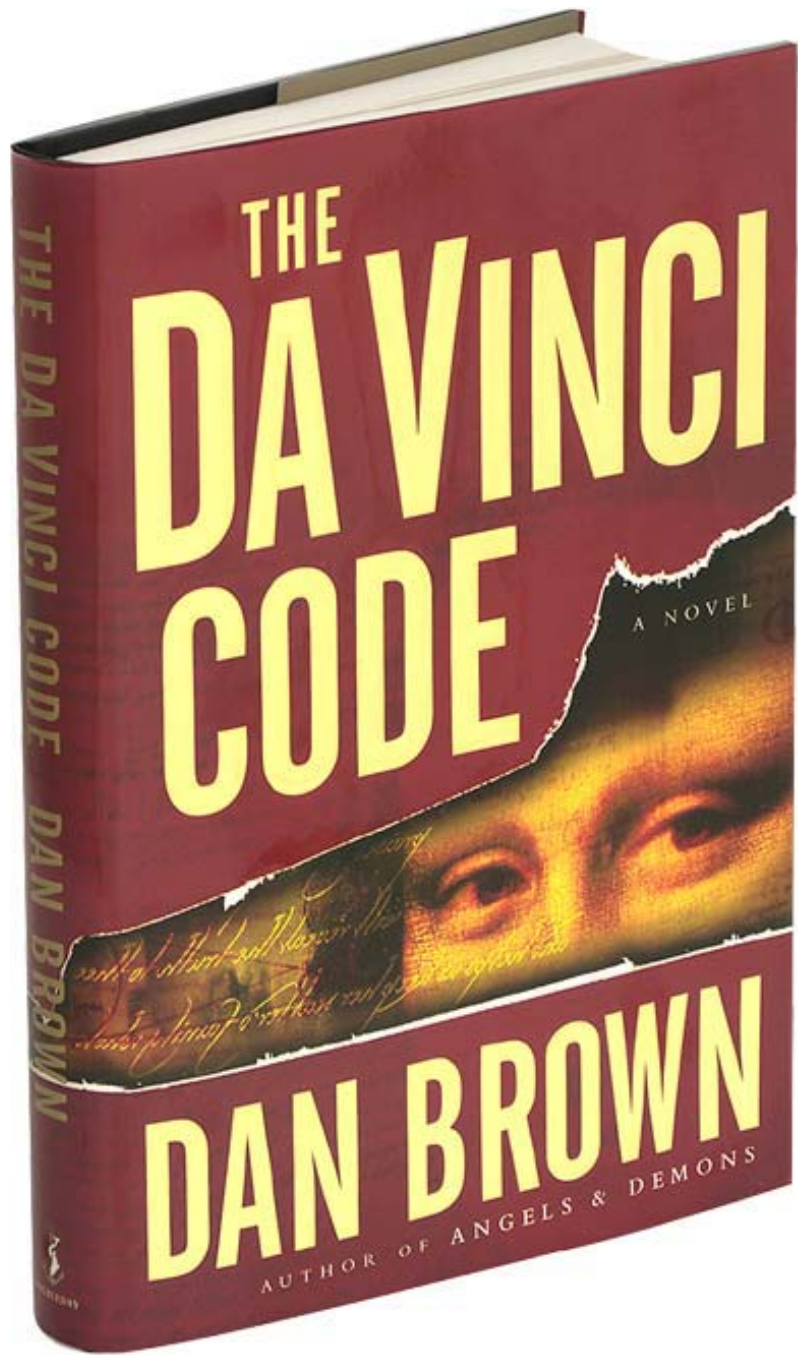
“Since our thoughts influence our emotions, reactions, and behaviors, it is important for us to know what we believe and why we believe it.”

**Geisler and Bocchino,
*Unshakable Foundation***

Truth Matters

John 8:44 "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

II. Mary Magdalene In *The Da Vinci Code*



THE
**DA VINCI
CODE**

A NOVEL



DAN BROWN
AUTHOR OF ANGELS & DEMONS

THE DA VINCI CODE DAN BROWN



**“All descriptions of artwork,
architecture, documents, and secret
rituals in this novel are accurate.” (1)**

The Da Vinci Code

By Dan Brown

Mary Magdalene

The Da Vinci Code

Mary Magdalene represented the feminine cult and the Holy Grail

She was Jesus' wife and the mother of his children

Magdalene's womb, carrying Jesus offspring, was the Holy Grail

The "truth" about Christ and Mary Magdalene has been kept alive by a secret society named the Priory of Sion that was lead by great minds like Da Vinci

The Truth

A leading follower of Jesus Christ

Had 7 demons cast out

Part of an entourage of women who supported and traveled with Jesus and his disciples

Present at the cross

She was a witness of Jesus' resurrection

Da Vinci's 'Last Supper'

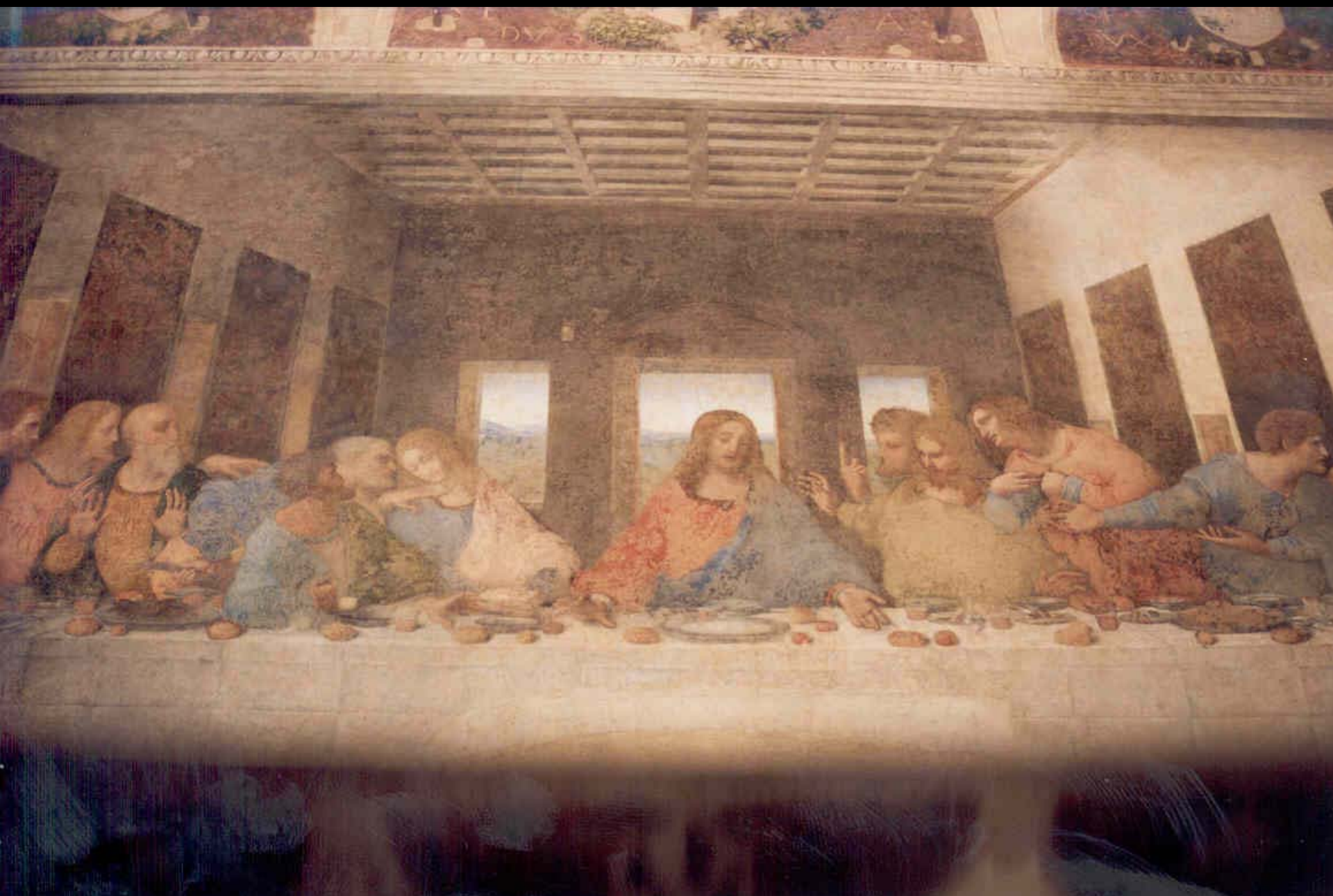
The Da Vinci Code

Feminine facial characteristics of the person on Jesus' right and the "V" shape formed with this person indicate that this was Mary Magdalene. (p.243-245)

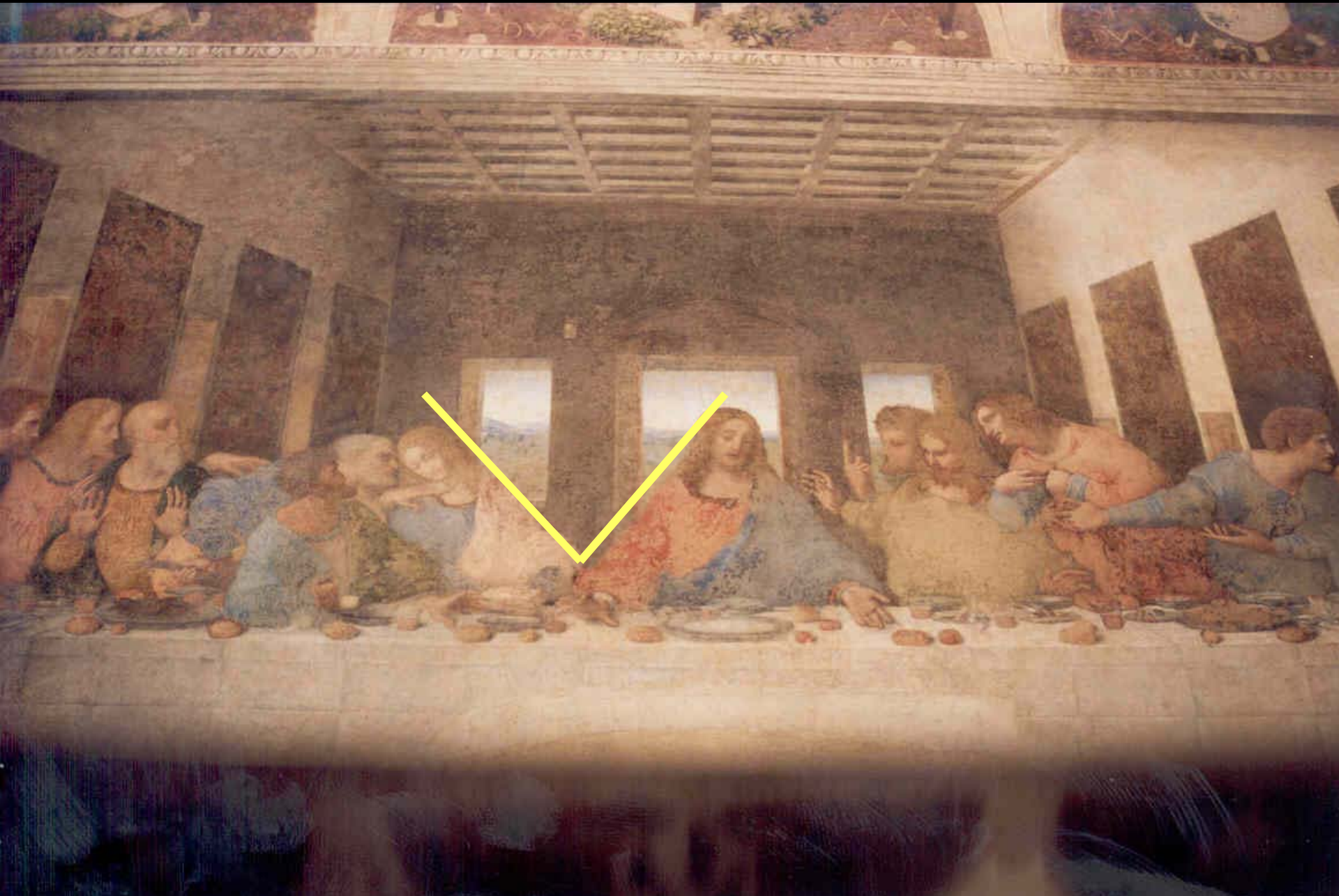
The Truth

Da Vinci's notes indicate that these are the 12 disciples. John was commonly painted with feminine facial features by Florentine artists to reflect their belief that he was the youngest disciple.

LEONARDO DA VINCI



LEONARDO DA VINCI



The Holy Grail

The Da Vinci Code

“The Holy Grail is not a thing. It is, in fact...a person.” (i.e. Mary Magdalene) p. 236

The Truth

Stemmed from a romance novel by Chretienne de Troyes at the end of the 12th century and was always the chalice or bowl from the Last Supper with no connection to Mary Magdalene.

IV. What Mary Magdalene Tells Us – How Is Her Story Ours?

- 1. God's view of women**
- 2. Delivered**
- 3. Despair Turned Into Hope**

Truth Matters

Ed Riddick, May 7, 2006