

***Question: I recently saw a rerun of the movie “The Da Vinci Code” on TV. Is there any evidence to prove or disprove the claims this book and movie make about Jesus?***

*The Da Vinci Code* was first published in 2003 and made into a movie a couple of years later. It is one of many similar books published through the years which have made claims about Jesus that are inconsistent with the biblical story and very offensive to Christians. Although *The Da Vinci Code* did appear on some best seller lists, interests in the book has already faded. I see no reason to think it will continue to be published any longer than similar books that have been written across the centuries. But the influence of the Jesus of the Bible upon art, music, law, education, family life, compassion of society for poor and disenfranchised people and the general pattern of life remains unsurpassed after two thousand years.

Under the heading “FACT” on the first page of Brown’s book, he states: “All descriptions of artwork, architecture, documents and secret rituals in this novel are accurate.” This literary device has led some to question whether or not *The Da Vinci Code* is fiction or not. While some of us may not like fiction, most of us can accept fiction as fiction. But even Christians who have accepted this book as fiction are deeply concerned about what Brown seems to claim is fact. Most of those who have read the New Testament documents can easily see that Brown’s descriptions of these documents are inaccurate.

In 2006, the NBC “Dateline” program demonstrated that at least three supposed facts that are foundational to *The Da Vinci Code* are false. After demonstrating the supposed symbolism of the letters “M” and “V” in Leonardo Da Vinci’s famous painting of “The Last Supper” an art expert also demonstrated how the shape of almost every letter of the Latin alphabet can be found in the painting. To illustrate this, the two men on TV were sitting across from one another so as to form an unintentional “V” between them. Were they trying to secretly communicate that they are vegetarians? They denied any such intent. Neither is there any evidence that Leonardo was trying to use the shape of any letters for symbolism in his painting.

“Dateline” also discussed the claim that there is an ancient gospel that says that Jesus kissed Mary on the mouth. A photo of the document does show the words “Mary” and “Jesus” and “kissed.” However, there are holes torn out between these words. The document does not say, “Jesus kissed Mary on the mouth.”

In addition, the book claims that the “Priory of Sion” is supposed to be a list of people who kept the information about the bloodline and descendants of Jesus and Mary secret through the centuries. The NBC researchers showed that the “Priory of Sion” document is a forgery by a French butler who is still living. He seems to have had visions of grandeur by claiming to be a descendant of Jesus in line to become king of France.

In spite of claims to the contrary, *The Da Vinci Code* is pure fiction. Whatever ancient foundational documents Dan Brown used in his book are either forgeries, non-existent or reinterpreted to suit his purposes. Thus, I really believe that the public’s fascination with this book will soon pass. However, the word of the Lord will stand forever (1 Peter 1:24-25).

[Send questions or comments to University Church of Christ, 801 N. 12<sup>th</sup>, Murray, KY 42071 or phone 270-753-1881. This article is reproduced on the web: [universitychurchmurray.com](http://universitychurchmurray.com)] 2015/05/15