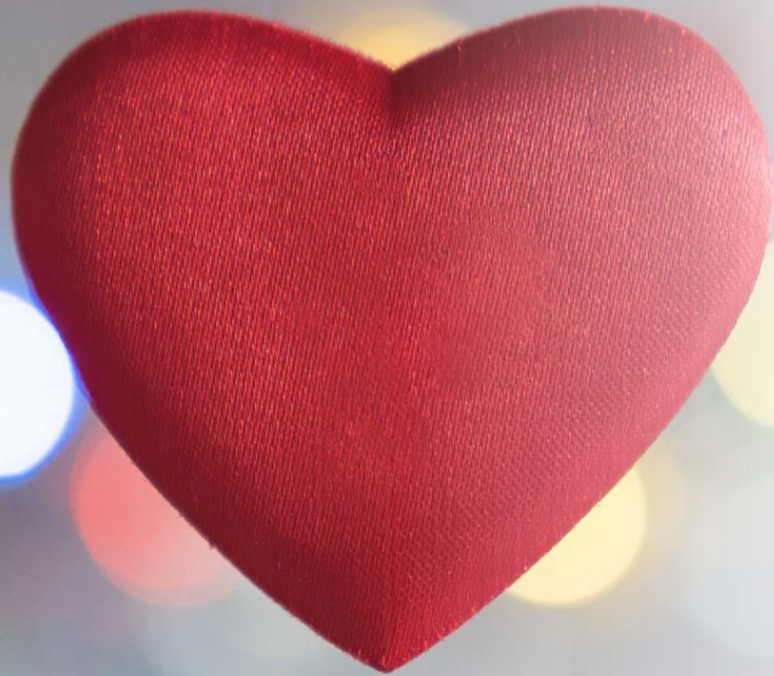


The background of the image shows a vast archaeological site of ancient mud-brick structures. The buildings are made of reddish-brown earth and feature thick, rounded walls and flat roofs. Some structures have small, dark rectangular openings that serve as windows or doorways. The ruins are set against a pale, overcast sky with soft, diffused light. The overall scene conveys a sense of historical depth and architectural grandeur.

Magdalene Community Gathering

September 25, 2022



WELCOME

Let us take a few moments to
silence our minds,
calm our bodies and open our
hearts

Opening Dialogue

SOLO: Peace be with You

UNISON: Acquire my Peace within you

SOLO: Lord, I saw you today in a vision

UNISON: Blessed are you that you did not waver

SOLO: Tell me Lord, how does he who sees the vision see it, through the Soul or through the Spirit?

SOLO: He does not see through the soul nor through the Spirit, but the mind that is between the two, that is what sees the vision.

Gospel of Mary Magdalene

Chapter 5

5) Peter said to Mary, Sister we know that the Savior loved you more than the rest of woman.

6) Tell us the words of the Savior which you remember which you know, but we do not, nor have we heard them.

7) Mary answered and said, What is hidden from you I will proclaim to you.

Gospel of Mary Magdalene, cont.

Chapter 9

- 1) When Mary had said this, she fell silent, since it was to this point that the Savior had spoken with her.
- 2) But Andrew answered and said to the brethren, Say what you wish to say about what she has said. I at least do not believe that the Savior said this. For certainly these teachings are strange ideas.
- 3) Peter answered and spoke concerning these same things.
- 4) He questioned them about the Savior: Did He really speak privately with a woman and not openly to us? Are we to turn about and all listen to her? Did He prefer her to us?

The image features a dense field of bright yellow ginkgo leaves, some in sharp focus and others blurred in the background, creating a warm, autumnal atmosphere. The leaves are scattered across the frame, with thin, dark branches visible. In the center, the text "What does it mean to be a woman?" is written in a clean, white, sans-serif font, spanning two lines.

What does it mean to be a
woman?

Dialogue of the Savior

.... in response to a particularly insightful question, the Lord says of her, "***You make clear the abundance of the revealer!***" (140.17-19).

At another point, after Mary has spoken, the narrator states, "***She uttered this as a woman who had understood completely***" (139.11-13)

Women In Ancient Christianity:
The New Discoveries, Karen King, PhD.
Frontline

In another text, the **Sophia of Jesus Christ**, Mary also plays a clear role among those whom Jesus teaches.

She is one of the seven women and twelve men gathered to hear the Savior after the resurrection, but before his ascension.

Of these only five are named and speak, including Mary. At the end of his discourse, he tells them, "I have given you authority over all things as children of light."

Karen King, PhD, Frontline



For I am the first and the last.
I am the honored one and the scorned
one.
I am the whore and the holy one.
I am the wife and the virgin.
I am <the mother> and the daughter.
I am the members of my mother.
I am the barren one
and many are her sons.
I am she whose wedding is great,
and I have not taken a husband.
I am the midwife and she who does
not bear.
I am the solace of my labor pains.

I am the bride and the bridegroom,
and it is my husband who begot me.
I am the mother of my father
and the sister of my husband
and he is my offspring.
I am the slave of him who prepared
me.
I am the ruler of my offspring.
But he is the one who begot me before
the time on a birthday.
And he is my offspring in (due) time,
and my power is from him.

Thunder Perfect Mind
excerpt



By placing the teaching of the **Gospel of Mary** side-by-side with the theology of the Corinthian women prophets, the Montanist women's oracles, **Thunder Perfect Mind**, and Perpetua's prison diary, it is possible to discern shared views about teaching and practice that may exemplify some of the contents of women's theology...

Women's Theology

Jesus was understood primarily as a **teacher and mediator of wisdom** rather than as ruler and judge.

Theological reflection centered on the experience of the person of the risen Christ more than the crucified savior.

Direct access to God is possible for all through receiving the Spirit.

In Christian community, the unity, power, and perfection of the **Spirit are present now, not just in some future time.**



Women's Theology, cont.

A woman's identity and spirituality could be developed apart from her roles as wife and mother (or slave), whether she actually withdrew from those roles or not.

Gender is itself contested as a "natural" category in the face of the power of God's Spirit at work in the community and the world.

This meant that potentially women (and men) could exercise leadership on the basis of spiritual achievement apart from gender status and without conformity to established social gender roles

Overcoming social injustice and human suffering are seen to be integral to spiritual life.





An Invitation

Reflection and Discussion

What was the first thing you thought of when you saw the theme for today?

The image features three lit diya lamps in the foreground, arranged in a diagonal line from the bottom left towards the center. The lamps are dark-colored with a scalloped edge and contain a small flame. The background is dark and filled with numerous out-of-focus, colorful lights in shades of red, orange, yellow, and green, creating a bokeh effect. The overall atmosphere is warm and festive.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS
PRAYER REQUESTS**

CLOSING DIALOGUE

Solo: Peace be with you.

Unison: May my peace reside within you.

Solo: Guard carefully that no one misleads you saying, “Look, he is here,” or “He’s over there,” for the Son of Humanity already exists within you.

Unison: Follow him, for those who seek him there will find him

Solo: Let us turn our hearts to the Good

Unison: Let us give praise to his greatness which has prepared us so that we might become fully human.

Solo: Acquire my peace

Unison: Let us go forth and proclaim the Good.

Our next Gathering will be on
October 30, 2022
2 p.m. CST

