

Magdalene Community Gathering

A-I Generated Summary

January 25, 2026

Quick Recap

The meeting focused on exploring the biblical concept of “putting on the garment” as discussed in the Gospel of Mary and other scriptural texts. Participants discussed various interpretations of this metaphor, including how it relates to spiritual armor, love as a business strategy, and personal rituals. The group shared their own practices for embodying divine qualities, such as wearing symbolic jewelry, using essential oils and mindfulness techniques. They also explored the idea of hospitality as a form of divine calling, with a reading from Diana Butler Bass.

Summary

Gospel Insights

The group began a discussion about translations of the Gospel of Mary, where they discovered new insights about the term “cloak” or “garment”, emphasizing the value of examining different translations to uncover hidden meanings.

Welcome

A new member expressed interests in Mary Magdalene after reading books about her and exploring related sites in France and England. Another new member returned to the Gatherings but had a history with the group from the time at the Rothko Chapel. It was explained that the group began in 2004. They had been studying Mary Magdalene for over 20 years, initially as a book study and later as a community. The group discussed recent articles about Mary Magdalene in publications like the New Yorker and National Geographic, noting continued relevance of the Magdalene and the ongoing interest in her.

The group uses PowerPoint presentations for focused discussions during the Magdalene Gatherings and suggestions and/or facilitators from the group are always welcomed.

The Perfect Human Garment Discussion

The group engaged in a meditation exercise then moved into the week’ subject. A member shared information from the Bible and Beyond series entitled “The Greatest Thing I Learned This Week”, and had suggested we explore it (<https://earlychristiantexts.com>). They focused on the Gospel of Mary and the concept of clothing oneself with the perfect human. Different translations of the text were explored. They then considered various reasons for choosing specific garments in different contexts. They admitted their exploration became both playful and reflective, ultimately touching on the spiritual significance of clothing oneself in God.

Spiritual Armor and Strength

The group discussed different biblical verses about spiritual armor and clothing oneself with God. A member read Ephesians 6:10-18, which emphasized the importance of putting on the full armor of God to withstand the devil’s schemes. The significance of verse 12 was highlighted, which states that the struggle is not against flesh and blood but against rulers, authorities and evil spiritual forces. The discussion touched on the relevance of these verses in the context of recent events and the need to support those who are struggling to stand firm or

even to stand at all. Verses from Romans and Colossians were also included in the presentation, read and briefly discussed.

Spiritual Garments and Protection Discussion

The group discussed spiritual garments and protection, focusing on biblical verses about clothing oneself with a new self and the concept of light. They explored how different religious traditions view rituals and garments, including the practices of priests and monks. The discussion led to talking about the contrast between militaristic interpretations of spiritual armor, a more male dominated wording compared to the more peaceful, loving approaches to protection and self-care.

Love as a Business Strategy

The group discussed the concept of love as a powerful business strategy, with a member suggesting that love is not a soft skill but a strong force that can heal and empower people. Another shared her experience with a book titled “Love is a Business Strategy”, and how its concepts were initially laughed at by some business colleagues but later recognized as a successful approach. Others shared personal experiences of using love and empathy in the workplace, one emphasizing that it was not about being different but simply being authentic. The conversation concluded with a member reflecting on the balance between divine feminine and sacred masculine energies in the world.

Embodying Love in Business

The group discussed the concepts of love, compassion, and the Divine Feminine in the business world, emphasizing cooperation and collaboration as feminine traits. They explored the verses surrounding “putting on garments” concluding the phrases symbolized embodying stronger compassion and love. Several shared personal experiences of wearing symbolic jewelry and making internal decisions to open their hearts. The conversation highlighted the importance of choosing to act from a place of love and compassion, drawing inspiration from the Gospel of Mary.

Symbolic Rituals and Values Representation

A member talked about wearing pins specially made that represented values like respect, compassion, and tolerance. A member offered to check if the Bontiac Center at Rice University still produces these, as she had previously tried to obtain more.

A member shared her personal ritual of using essential oils, specifically the oil Joy in her morning ritual to keep her heart open, while another highlighted the symbolic significance of wearing ribbons to represent causes.

Stefan, a member, contributed a translation from German to: “embody the human nature in its perfection”.

“In German, Levi’s speech in Mary 18,16 reads : “das menschliche Wesen in seiner Vollkommenheit verwirkliche.” which has some options for translation:

“das menschliche Wesen”> the human nature / essence /being / character

“verwirklichen”> embody / put into practice / fulfill / materialize / realize/bring to fruition

“in seiner Vollkommenheit”> in its perfection

What I like here is that it is not about acquiring something external but rather about unfolding one’s own true nature (as of Mary 7, 21 or Mary 8,8) entirely, i.e., it is not about struggling to strive for perfection, but rather about allowing to entirely live the perfection which has always been there. So, this is very different from

experiencing Christian ethics as a confinement. Instead, individual fulfillment (sometimes a marginal topic in Christianity) gets a spiritual dimension here. Bug, nevertheless, I really like the idea of the garments in terms of ritualization together with all the associated thoughts on that which you presented.”

Divine Practices and Daily Life

The group discussed wearing garments symbolizing divine qualities and the use of essential oils as part of this practice. A member agreed to share information about Young Living essential oils with the group. They also talked about a Magdalene Pilgrimage led by Veronique Flayol in France. Discussion also included that Veronique was from France, her family steeped in Magdalene history and different events involving her were noted.

The group reflected on how to incorporate these practices into daily life, with one suggesting mindfulness as a key component. They concluded by sharing prayer request and reading a passage from Diana Butler Bass about God's hospitality.

The next gathering was scheduled for February 22nd.

“This overview was created with the assistance of AI for clarity and brevity.”