



Magdalene by Angela Hunt

DISCUSSION GUIDE

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1. What did you know about Mary Magdalene before you read this novel? Did the story shatter any of your previously held ideas?
2. Think about this—when Peter said, “Oh, no, Lord, you shouldn’t even talk about dying,” Jesus replied, “Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, and not from God’s.” (Matthew 16:23). With that example in mind, what do you think Jesus would have said to any woman who tried to tempt him to sexual sin?
3. Did you begin to read this story with the eyes of a twenty-first century Christian? Did you stop to consider that the people of Jesus’ day didn’t know who he was in the beginning? First century Hebrews were firmly sold on the concept of “one God and only one God.” If Jesus had proclaimed himself as God from the outset of his ministry, how do you think he would have been received?
4. Before reading this, did you realize that Jesus’ many references to himself as the “Son of Man” pointed to Daniel 7:13-14? Why would this have been significant to a Jewish audience?
5. Have you stopped to think how salvation differed in the time of Christ? The book of Acts indicates that people gathered pieces of information about repentance, salvation, and the Holy Spirit gradually. How would this have affected someone like the Roman centurion at the cross?
6. Neither Miryam nor the apostles became perfect people after Jesus’ ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit. Scripture tells us that Paul and Barnabas had a falling out over John Mark (Acts 15:37), and Paul freely admitted that he remained a slave to sin after his salvation experience (Romans 7:21-25). Do you, like Miryam, struggle with some sin that prevents you from following Christ in perfect obedience? How has the Lord worked in your life regarding that sin?

7. This story is written in only two viewpoints: Miryam's and Atticus's. How did this enhance or detract from your enjoyment of the story?
 8. How did Yeshua revolutionize the role of women in society? Would a person like Miryam be grateful for this changing role?
 9. Where do you think Hunt got the idea for a silk fabric that shifts from crimson to purple, depending on the light? Hint: see Matthew 27:28 and Mark 15:17. How was this fabric used as a symbol in the story?
 10. Misunderstanding is a frequent theme in this novel—Miryam misunderstands what happened in Magdala, she and many others misunderstand Yeshua's plan and purpose, and Gaius misunderstands how Atticus came to have a son. What other characters or groups of people misunderstand a truth of the story?
 11. If this were a movie and you could play any role, which role would you like to play?
 12. If you could ask the author any question, what would it be?
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