Multi-perspective Pilgrimage to Israel & Palestine

January 4-13, 2021 frederickuu.org/pilgrimage

Covenant

- Use "I" statements: speak your truth in ways that respect the truth of others.
- Share the airtime: "take/make space" depending on your relative frequency of participation.
- Incline toward "identifying in": noticing what you agree with & appreciate about a person, place, or idea at least 2-3 times as much as what you disagree with ("identifying out") to counterbalance our brain's "negativity bias."
- Turn to curiosity & wonder if the going gets rough

Covenant

- Practice "both/and" thinking
- Take new ideas for a test drive even if they don't end up fitting you long term.
- Ok to "agree to disagree," but not to shame another person.
- Ok to ask a clarifying question in the spirit of curiosity.
- **Practice consent culture:** you always have the right to "pass." (Listen to your emotions & your conscience.)

Focal Themes

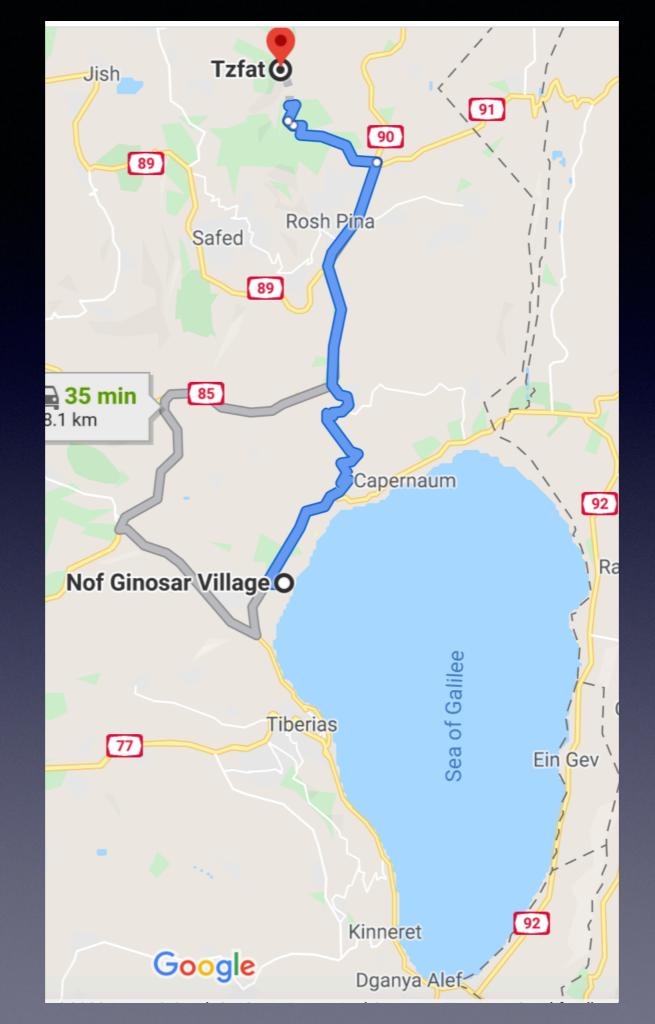
Pilgrimage: "A *tourist* passes through a place, a *pilgrim* allows a place to pass through them."

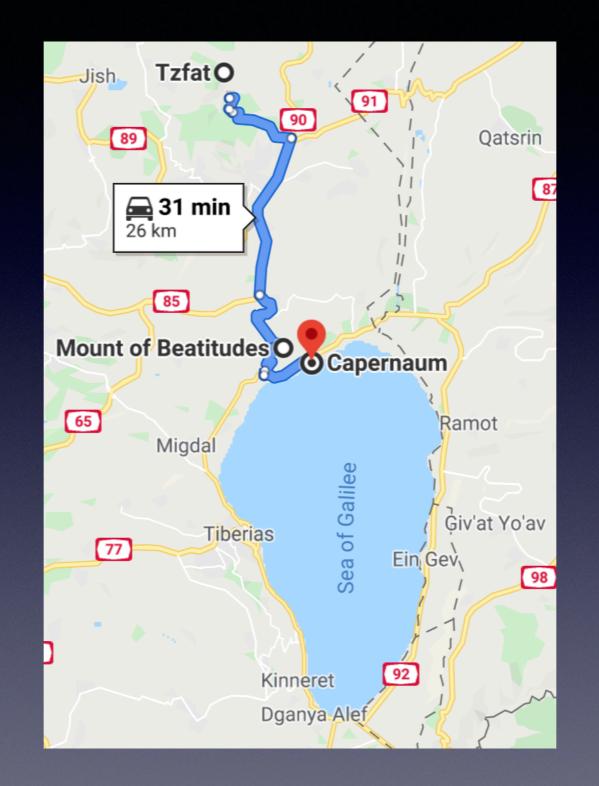
Perspectives: plural

Peace: "The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for *all*" (UU Sixth Principle).

Day 4 (of 10): **Tzfat & the Galilee**(Bus, 1 Guide)

- Tsfat (Hebrew: جوת) / Safed (Arabic: صفد)
 - city where many prominent Jewish rabbis moved when Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492,
 - later became a hub for Kabbalah (Jewish mystical traditions),
 - also birthplace of current Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas.
- Mount of Beatitudes, where Christian pilgrims commemorate Jesus' Sermon on the Mount
- Capernaum, hub of Jesus' Galilean ministry
- Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee.
- Overnight: Nof Ginosar Kibbutz or similar, Galilee





Tzfat & the Galilee

<u>Check-in</u>:

Did you have one particular insight that resonated with you from the books, films, etc. this month? <u>frederickuu.org/pilgrimage</u>

- 1. March (Arrival & Gathering): Israel/Palestine by Dowty
- 2. April (Jerusalem): Jerusalem: One City, Three Faiths by Karen Armstrong
- **3.** May (Geopolitical Jerusalem): *Antisemitism: Here and Now* by D. Lipstadt
- **4.** June (Tzfat & the Galilee) *Did Jesus Exist?: The Historical Argument for Jesus of Nazareth* (368 pages: HarperOne, 2013) by Bart Ehrman (1955-), Professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Looking Ahead... Quarterly???

July (Day 5: Nazareth, Jericho, Ramallah): Settler Colonialism & Palestinian Resistance

August (Day 6: Judean Desert & Jordan Valley): Qumran & the Dead Sea Scrolls

September (Day 7: Masada & Hebron): Myth & Revolt

October (Day 8: Greater Bethlehem): Zionism

November (Day 9: Neve Shalom / Wahat al Salaam): Paths to Peace

December (Day 10: Departure): U.S. Role in Peace Process

January (Integration): Healing/Transforming Israel/Palestine

Quest for the Historical Jesus

- > German historian & philologist
- > Pioneer in critical textual analysis of historical documents
- "How it actually was" (wie es eigentlich gewesen)



Leopold von Ranke (1795-1886)

Quest for the Historical Jesus

- Conventional Wisdom: Should be easy because Jesus well-known in his time and place
- > <u>Reality</u>: Jewish peasant in Roman Empire
- Historical Documents: outside of the (Christian) New Testament, almost nothing about Jesus written within 100 years of his death.



Quest for the Historical Jesus Pagan Sources: none in first century

> Letter (112 CE)

- *from* Pliny the Younger (Roman Gov.)
- > to Emperor Trajan
- > re: persecuting Christians.
- > Mentions that Christians worship Jesus, but nothing about what he said or did.

THE LETTERS OF PLINY

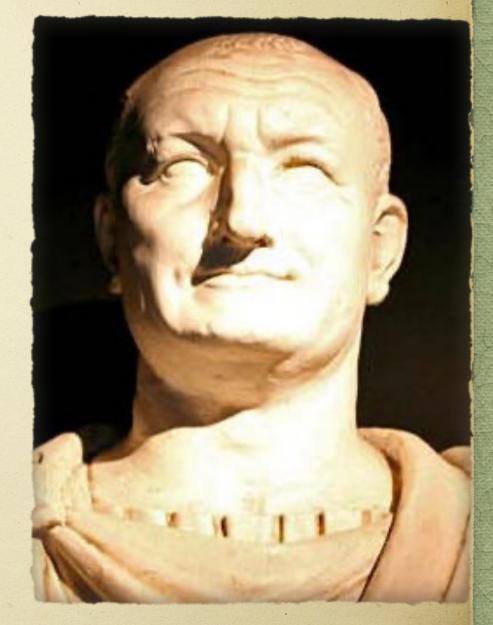
magis, quod nihil ante peraeque eodem ζήλω scripsisse videor. Temptavi enim imitari Demosthenem semper tuum, Calvum nuper meum, dumtaxat figuris orationis; nam vim tantorum virorum 'pauci, quos aequus amavit,' adsequi possunt. Nec materia ipsa huic (vereor, ne improbe dicam) aemulationi repugnavit; erat enim prope tota in contentione dicendi; quod me longae desidiae indormientem excitavit, si modo is sum ego, qui excitari possim. Non tamen omnino Marci nostri ληκύθους fugimus, quotiens paululum itinere decedere non intempestivis amoenitatibus admonebamur. Acres enim esse, non tristes, volebamus. Nec est, quod putes me sub hac exceptione veniam postulare. Immo, quo magis intendam limam tuam, confitebor et ipsum me et contubernales ab editione non abhorrere, si modo tu fortasse errori nostro album calculum adieceris. Est enim plane aliquid edendum, atque utinam hoc potissimum, quod paratum est! (audis desidiae votum?) edendum autem ex pluribus causis, maxime quod libelli, quos emisimus, dicuntur in manibus esse, quamvis iam gratiam novitatis exuerint; nisi tamen auribus nostris bibliopolae blandiuntur. Sed sane blandiantur, dum per hoc mendacium nobis studia nostra commendent. Vale.

a Aen. vi. 129.

Quest for the Historical Jesus Pagan Sources: none in first century

> c. 115 CE

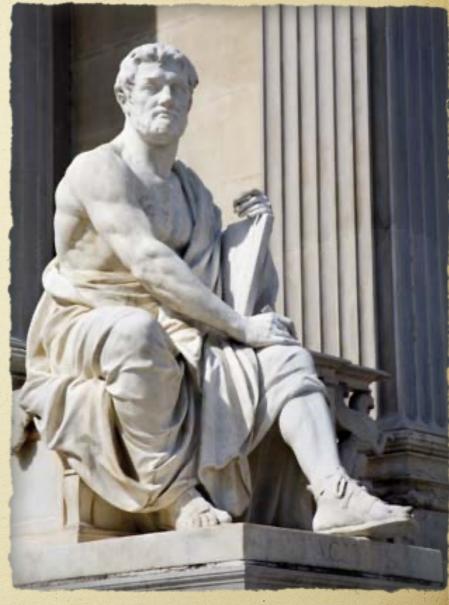
- Suetonius (Roman historian) writing about riots started by "Chrestus" during the time of emperor Claudius (41-54 CE)
- > Possible misspelling of Christ
- > Regardless, would be about *early followers*, not Jesus himself.



Quest for the Historical Jesus Pagan Sources: none in first century

> Annals (115 CE)

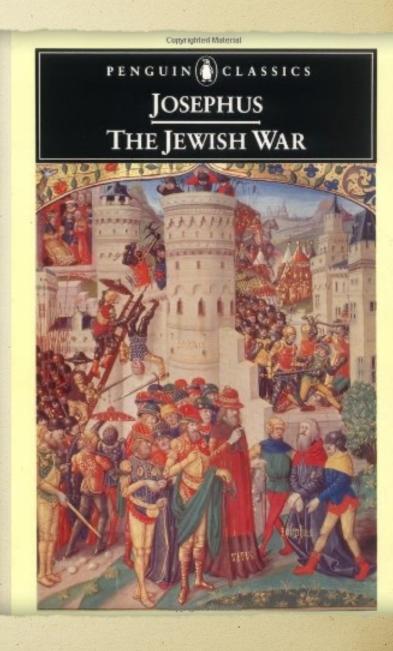
- > Tacitus (Roman historian)
- * "Chistus from whom their name [Christian] is derived, was executed at the hands of the procurator Pontius Pilate in the reign of Tiberius."
- Pilate was a prefect, not a procurator].



Quest for the Historical Jesus Jewish Sources

Insider's perspective on the Jewish War against Rome in 77-73 CE.

> Jesus not mentioned at all



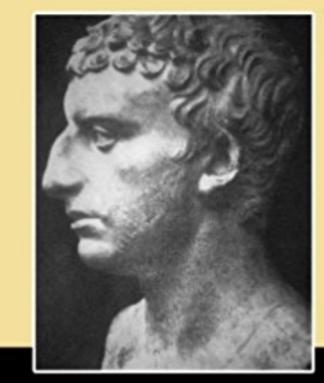
Quest for the Historical Jesus Jewish Sources

> 20-volume history of the Jews
> Adam and Eve *to* the Jewish War

"[James] the brother of Jesus who is called the messiah" (Ant. 20.9.1)

> <u>"Called the Messiah</u>" - Josephus's a non-Christian Jew, so disagreed.

THE ANTIQUITIES OF THE JEWS



FLAVIUS JOSEPHUS

Quest for the Historical Jesus Jewish Sources

> Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man IF IT BE LAWFUL TO CALL HIM A MAN, for he was a doer of wonders, A TEACHER OF SUCH MEN AS RECEIVE THE TRUTH WITH PLEASURE. He drew many after him BOTH OF THE JEWS AND THE GENTILES. HE WAS THE CHRIST. When Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men among us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, FOR HE APPEARED TO THEM ALIVE AGAIN THE THIRD DAY, AS THE DIVINE PROPHETS HAD FORETOLD THESE AND THEN THOUSAND OTHER WONDERFUL THINGS ABOUT HIM, and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day (Antiquities 18:63-64).

> Josephus never became a Christian

Christians copied/transmitted Josephus' writings

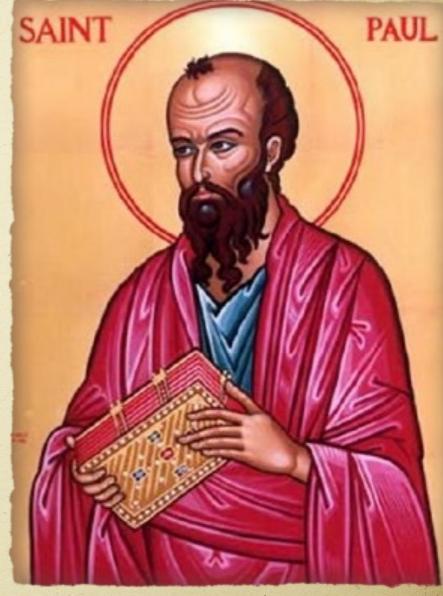
Quest for the Historical Jesus Christian Sources

Paul:

> almost nothing about Jesus' life and teachings

A lot about Jesus' death, resurrection, and expected return.

> A few exceptions...



Quest for the Historical Jesus Christian Sources: Paul #1 of 3

I Corinthians 11

> 23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."



Quest for the Historical Jesus Christian Sources: Paul #1 of 3

Context

> 20 So then, when you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, 21 for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk. 22 Don't you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? Certainly not in this matter!





Copyrighted Material ŀ 76 ge HOW CHRISTIANS HAVE CELEBRATEI THE EUCHARIST

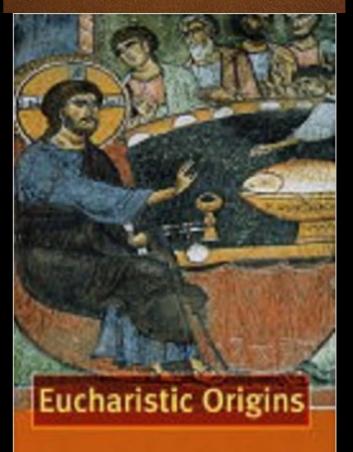
Edward Folcy

IN THE **Beginning** WAS THE **Meal**

SOCIAL EXPERIMENTATION & EARLY CHRISTIAN IDENTITY



Hal Taussig



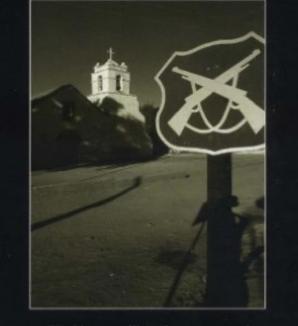
PAUL F. BRADSHAW

reta halteman finger of widows and meals

communal meals in the book of acts

TORTURE AND Eucharist

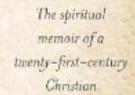
CHALLENGES IN CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGY



William T. Cavanangb

take this bread

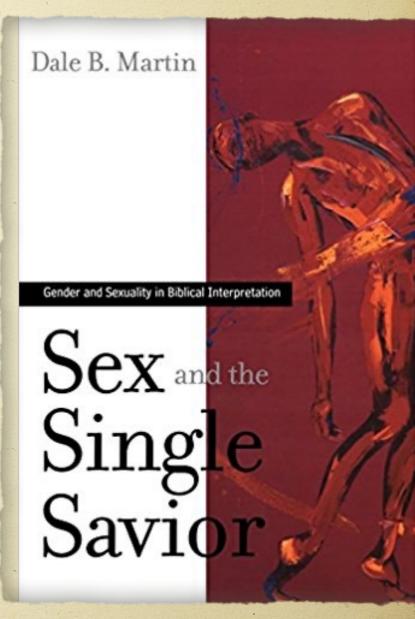
SARA MILES



Quest for the Historical Jesus Christian Sources: Paul #2 of 3

1 Cor 7:10-11

To the married I give this command—not I but the Lord—that the wife should not separate from her husband (but if she does separate, let her remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife.



Quest for the Historical Jesus Christian Sources: Paul #3 of 3

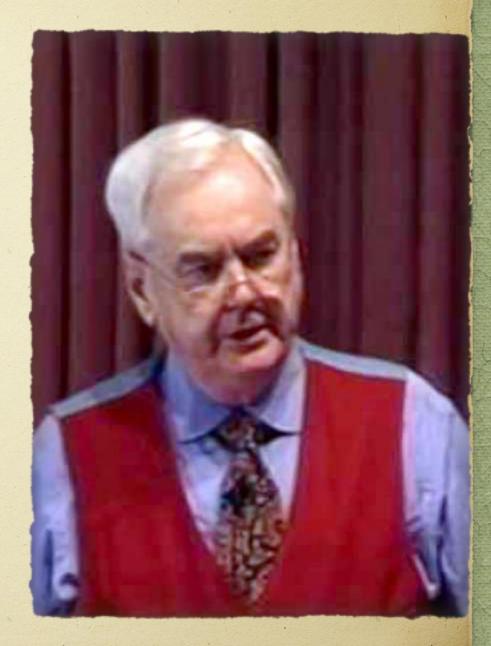
1 Cor 9:14

In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.



Quest for the Historical Jesus Jesus Seminar

Founded by Robert Funk (1985)
50-75 scholars who meet regularly



(1926-2005)

Quest for the Historical Jesus Jesus Seminar: Color-coded voting

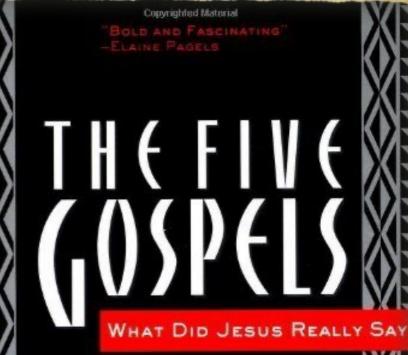
- Red undoubtedly said that or something very much link it [red-letter Bibles]
- <u>Pink</u> probably said something like this
- Gray ideas are his even though he did not say this
 - Black didn't say this

Jesus Seminar



Quest for the Historical Jesus Jesus's Sayings in the bible

- > <u>Black</u>: 50%
- > <u>Gray</u>: 30%
- > <u>Pink/Red</u>: 20%
- Red vote was accorded to *no* statement of Jesus in John and to only one saying peculiar to Mark!
 - Mostly Q



The Search for the Authentic Words of Jesus

NEW TRANSLATION AND COMMENTARY BY

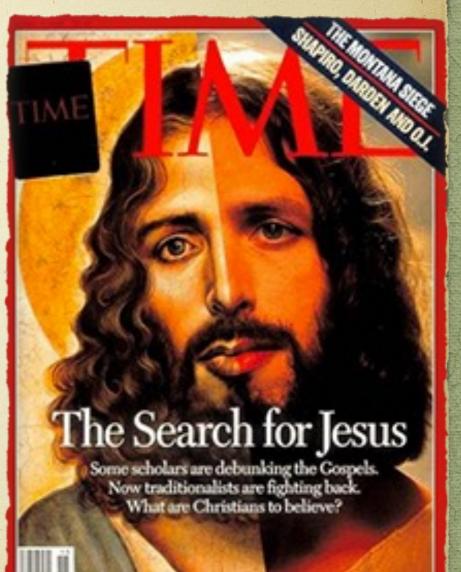
ROBERT W. FUNK, Roy W. Hoover, and The Jesus Seminar

Quest for the Historical Jesus Evaluating Sources

> Earlier often Better

Sophisticated Theology often means *later* date

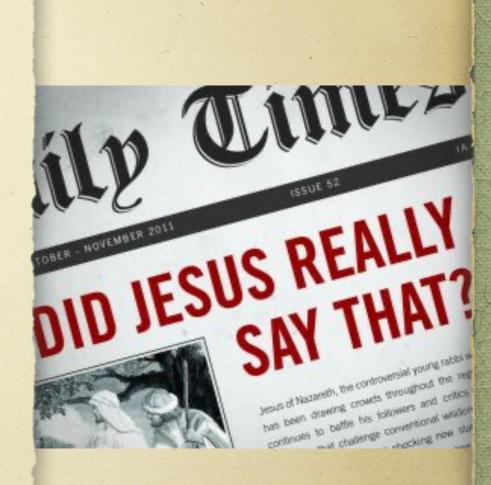
Criterion of Dissimilarity [next slide]



Quest for the Historical Jesus Criterion of Dissimilarity

- > Wouldn't make up baptism by John the Baptizer
- > Wouldn't make up crucifixion (embarrassing and hard to explain)
 - > 1 Cor 1:23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,

Beware Biases: can end up with non-Jewish, non-divine Jesus



Quest for the Historical Jesus Jesus's Sayings in the bible

Crossan: movement, execution, continuation

> Public Theology

Sought media coverage (<u>aarweb.org</u>)

WHAT DID JESUS REALLY DO?

PROVOCATIVE NEW FINDINGS FROM THE JESUS SEMIN

^{ne} Acts of Jesus

ROBERT W. FUNK and THE JESUS SEMINAR

AUTHENTIC DEEDS OF

- > A man died.
- > The people who knew him gathered to share memories.
- > Finally, a portrait was commissioned.
- > But as generations passed, the painting did not seem fine enough.

CATHERINE KELLER

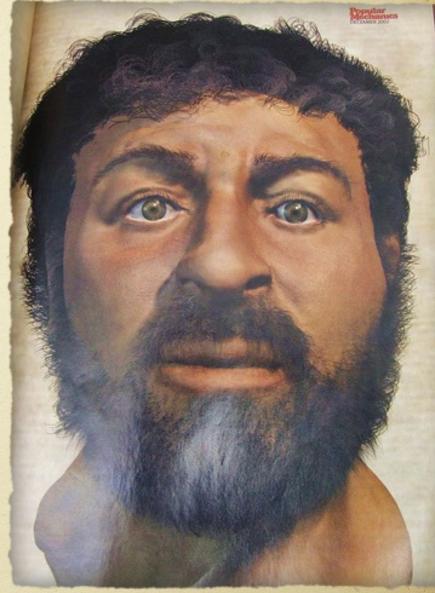
On the Mystery

DISCERNING GOD IN PROCESS

The heirs of the portrait, who had become wealthy, created a new golden frame, immense, carved with motifs from the portrait and encrusted with jewels.

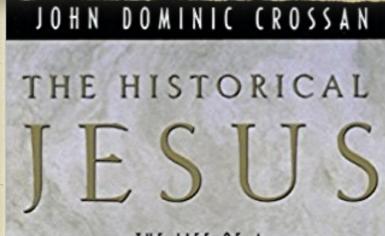
- > People began to feel that the old portrait of that dark fellow with the haunting eyes pulled the effect down.
- > As it began to peel from age, they extended the frame inward.

One day the frame covered the whole canvas.



"Historical Jesus research is becoming something of a scholarly bad joke.

The number of competent and even eminent scholars producing pictures of Jesus at wide variance with one another"



THE LIFE OF A MEDITERRANEAN JEWISH PEASANT



The first comprehensive determination of who Jesus was, what he did, what he said.



The Historical JESUS

FIVE VIEWS

CONTRIBUTORS:

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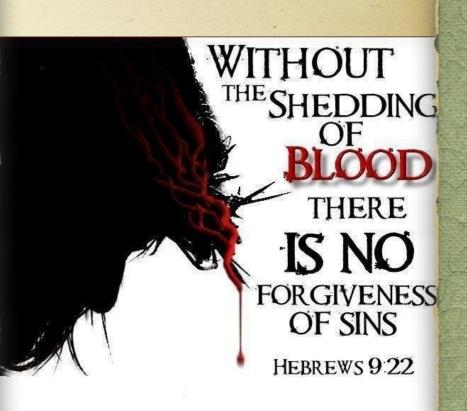
The

Jesus A Debate

Apocalyptic

Robert J. Miller editor

- > Vampire Christianity
 - > only wanting Jesus for his blood
- Solution Solution
- > Was *death* needed or *violent* death?



RITA NAKASHIMA BROCK

PROVERBS OF ASHES

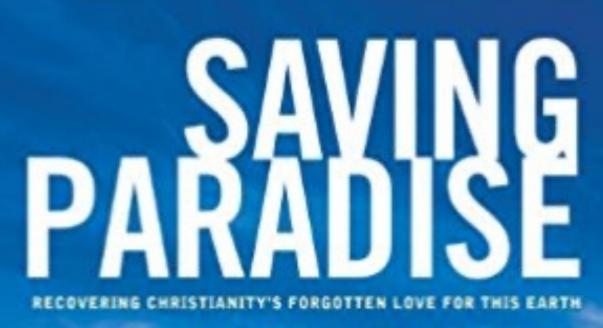
and THE SEARCH FOR WHAT SAVES US



"Poignant and provocative..... Brock and Parker have written a book of both sorrow and hope, and a biseprior for deeper thinking about the things that matter most."

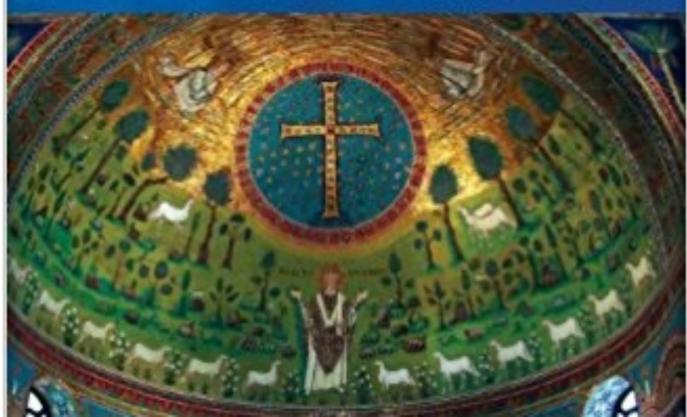
ROSEMARY BRAY MCNATY

Author of Usafiaid of the Dark



This humane and often beautiful stack of taith, lass and hope staaddles the boundary between historical discovery and spectral writing. Robinfers Woolds, stated creter





Emphasis:

> *Believing* in the saving power of
> Jesus' *violent* death to go to

> heaven (instead of hell) in the next world.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day

in accordance with the Scriptures.

Life Tradition = period

Emphasis:

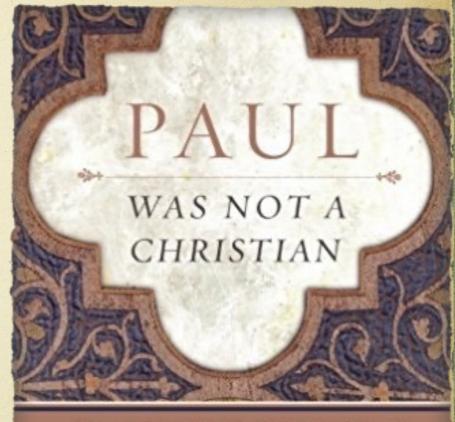
Saving power of *following*Jesus's *way of living* [ethics]

> in the *this* world



Christian: coined after Jesus' death

- > Acts 11:26, "The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch."
- Searliest followers of Jesus called followers of "The Way"
- Acts 9, "1 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way"

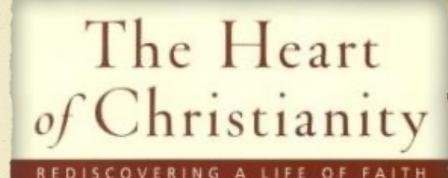


The ORIGINAL MESSAGE of a MISUNDERSTOOD APOSTLE

PAMELA EISENBAUM

Less about worshiping Jesus

More about *incarnating* Jesus's way of generous, transformative, risky love in our time and place—just as he did in the first century Galilee.

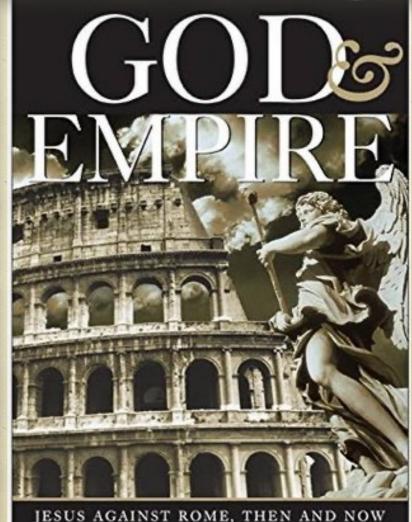


How We Can Be Passionate Believers Today

MARCUS J. BORG

Mark 1:14, "After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

- > Not good news of impending crucifixion so that his death might be atoning sacrifice for humanity's sins.
- Swilling to live in such a "Way" that risked getting killed because he believed so *passionately* in helped co-create a world in which God, not the Roman Emperor, rules.



John Dominic Crossan

- > Rosa Parks is an imitator of Christ,
- > not because she suffered for taking her stand (or keeping her seat, in her case),
- > but because she had the courage to believe in her own dignity and fought for it in spite of the conflict that resulted.



THE REBELLIOUS LIFE OF MRS. ROSA PARKS Jeanne Theoharis

With a New Introduction

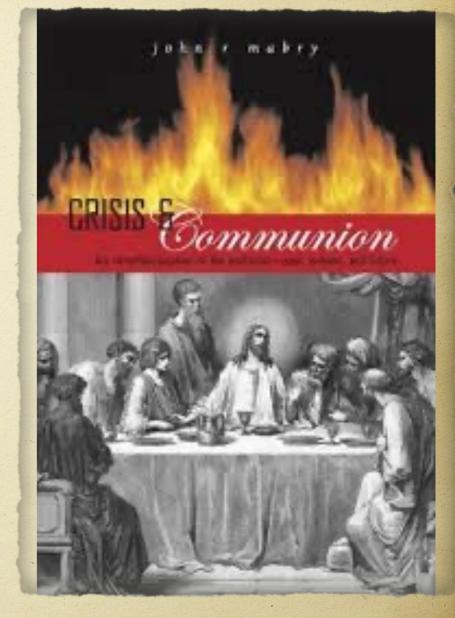
In the first sweeping history of Parks's life, Theoharis shows us [that] Parks not

> Nelson Mandela is an imitator of Christ,
> not because he suffered in prison,
> but because he held out for peace and justice, and led a nation to resurrection.



> <u>Not</u> *suffering* that is redemptive,

but the courage to pursue justice in the face of pain and evil. (129)



Quest for the Historical Jesus Life/Death Tradition & "Scholarship Bad Joke"
> Epistemic humility - in the face of the stunning pluralism of historical Jesus scholarship.

> Nonfoundationalism -

> Not timeless truths fixed in never-shifting rock

> Raft floating on the ever-moving currents of time & culture

"If you pick and choose, why not choose love?"
(youtube.com/watch?v=B_hyT7_Bx90), 1st 2 min

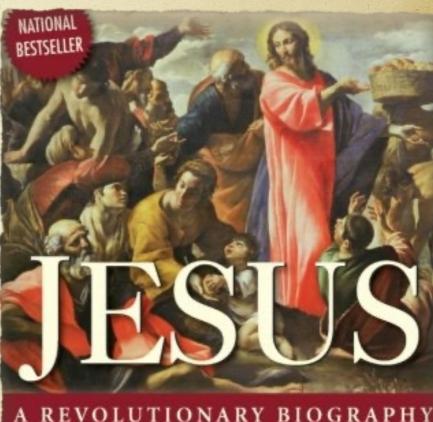
You are responsible for the truth, goodness, morality, & social effect of how you interpret Bible or any other text" (Dale Martin)

Quest for the Historical Jesus "How many *years* was Easter Sunday?" Traditional/Orthodox:

- after Jesus' crucifixion, followers found empty tomb and were told about (or encountered) resurrected Jesus.
- Direct transmission of eyewitness account.

Historians

- > messier and more complex
- resurrection stories were formed in (re-)telling over many years



A STARTLING ACCOUNT OF WHAT WE CAN KNOW ABOUT THE LIFE OF JESUS

John Dominic Crossan

Quest for the Historical Jesus "How many *years* was Easter Sunday?"

Canonical Gospels disagree:

- > first person to go to the tomb,
- > whether the stone was already rolled away,
- > whether they immediately told others,
- > what the person (or people) at the tomb told them,

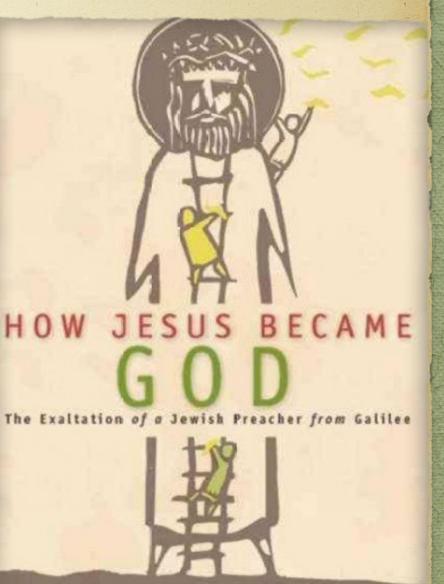
whether (and where) they saw Jesus

	looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. 26 Then he sent him away to his home, saying, "Do not even go into the village."		
atthew 16:13-20	Mark 8:27-30	Luke 9:18-21	
Now when Jesus came into	27 Jesus went on with his	18 Once when Jesus was	
district of Caesarea	disciples to the villages of	praying alone, with only the	
lippi, he asked his		disciples near him, he asked	John 6:66; 67-71
ciples, "Who do people say	way he asked his disciples,	them, "Who do the crowds	66 Because of this many of
t the Son of Man is?"	"Who do people say that I	say that I am?"	his disciples turned back an
	am?"		no longer went about with
And they said, "Some say	28 And they answered him.	19 They answered, "John the	him.
n the Baptist, but others	"John the Baptist; and others,	Baptist; but others, Elijah; and	67 So Jesus asked the twelv
ah, and still others	Elijah: and still others, one of	still others, that one of the	"Do you also wish to go
emiah or one of the	the prophets."	ancient prophets has arisen."	away?"
ophets."			68 Simon Peter answered
He said to them, "But who	29 He asked them, "But who	20 He said to them, "But who	him, "Lord, to whom can w
vou say that I am?"	do you say that I am?" Peter	do you say that I am?" Peter	go? You have the words of
Simon Peter answered,	answered him "You are the	answered, "The Messiah of	eternal life.
ou are the Messiah, the Son	Messiah."	God."	69 We have come to believ
the living God."	30 And he sternly ordered	21 He sternly ordered and	and know that you are the
And Jesus answered him,	them not to tell anyone about	commanded them not to tell	Holy One of God."
	him.	anvone,	70 Jesus answered them, "I
Jonah! For flesh and blood			I not choose you, the twelve
not revealed this to you,			Yet one of you is a devil."
my Father in heaven.		1	71 He was speaking of Juda
And I tell you, you are			son of Simon Iscariot, for h
er, and on this rock I will			though one of the twelve, w
ld my church, and the			going to betray him.
es of Hades will not		1	going to being min.
vail against it.			
I will give you the keys of			John 20:22-23
kingdom of heaven, and			22 When he had said this, h
atever you bind on earth			breathed on them and said t
I be bound in heaven, and			them, "Receive the Holy
atever you loose on earth			Spirit.
I be loosed in heaven."			23 If you forgive the sins of
Then he sternly ordered			any, they are forgiven them
disciples not to tell anyone			you retain the sins of any,
t he was the Messiah.			they are retained."
tthew 18:18			they are retained.
Truly I tell you, whatever			
u bind on earth will be			
und in heaven, and	1	1	1

Quest for the Historical Jesus "How many *years* was Easter Sunday?"

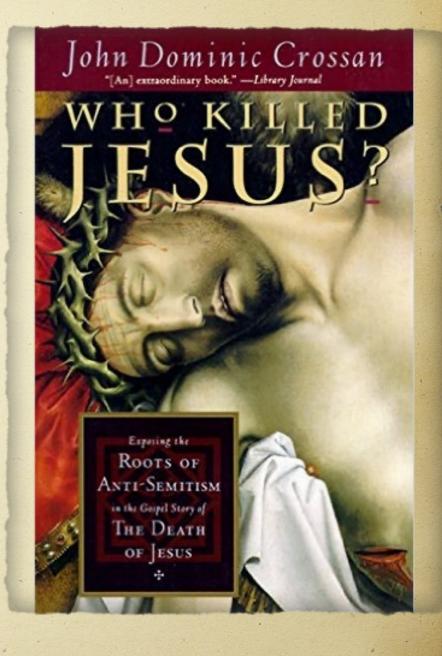
- Crucifixion: ~30 C.E.
- Earliest extant writings: Paul (50s)—two decades later

Earliest Gospel: Mark (70 C.E.) – forty years after Jesus' death and twenty years after Paul started writing.



Quest for the Historical Jesus Passion Narratives

Jesus & the Gospels: 100% inerrant/infallible
Raymond Brown: 80% History Remembered
Crossan, 80% Prophecy Historicized
<u>//: Jesus Seminar</u> 20% of the words attributed to him.



Quest for the Historical Jesus Oral Tradition

- Jesus & disciples: illiterate, Aramaicspeaking peasants
- Gospels: written by educated Greek-speaking Christians 40-65 years
- "97% of people in Palestine in Jesus's day could not read or write.
- > Of that 3%, more could read than write."

CATHERINE HEZSER

Jewish Literacy in Roman Palestine

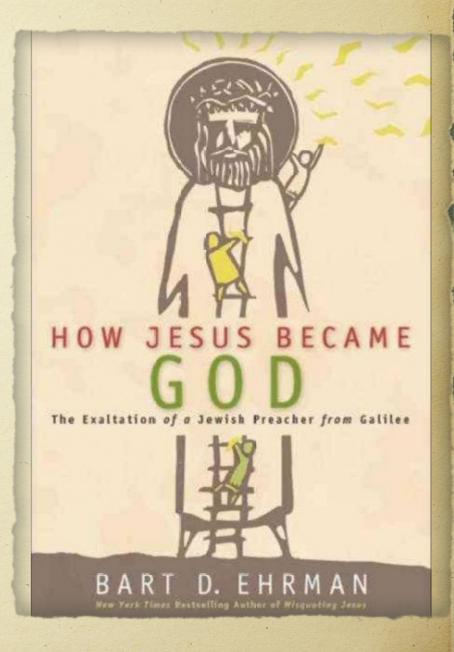
> Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism 81



Quest for the Historical Jesus Oral Tradition

> Myth #1: Gospels are eyewitness accounts

- Gospels almost entirely in the 3rdperson
- Don't claim to be composed by eyewitnesses



Quest for the Historical Jesus Quest for the Historical Homer

Oral context: every time a story is told it is changed.

> Details get changed.

> Often they changed massively"

THE SINGER OF TALES

SECOND EDITION Stephen Mitchell & Gregory Nagy, editors

1960

Quest for the Historical Jesus Quest for the Historical Homer

Researchers who make transcripts of oral cultures over time have shown:

"Every performance is and always has been different....

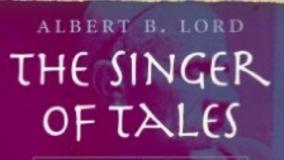
> Whoever performs tradition alters:

> own interests,

> sense of what audience wants,

> amount of time to tell/sing

> numerous other factors"



SECOND EDITION Stephen Mitchell & Gregory Nagy, editors with audio and video cd

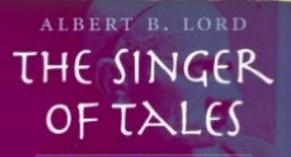
1960

Quest for the Historical Jesus Quest for the Historical Homer

Performers in oral culture: will say song is same over time

Meaning: "gist" is the same

Research: word choice and overall length vary widely from performance to performance



SECOND EDITION Stephen Mitchell & Gregory Nagy, editors

WITH AUDIO AND VIDEO CD

1960

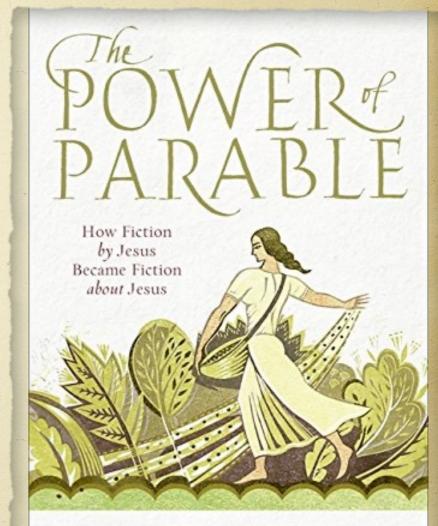
Quest for the Historical Jesus Parables in the Oral Tradition

Parable of Good Samaritan (Luke 10): < 200 words, < 1 minute to read aloud</p>

> Written version of parables in Bible

- > Not: transcripts of oral performance,
- > Instead: plot summaries
- Luke's version: word 'Samaritan' only occurs once

Had Jesus told it like that, cough from the audience could've ruined key word."



Author of The Greatest Prayer
JOHN DOMINIC CROSSAN

Quest for the Historical Jesus Parables in the Oral Tradition

> No 'original' version to find

Variances: as stories passed person to person during the forty-year gap between Jesus's death and earliest Gospel.

Jesus Seminar's 20%: "Gist" that remained most constant is "punchline" at the heart of stories — whereas surrounding details vary widely

what is Form Criticism?

Edgar V. McKNIGHT

> What if Gospels were written by eyewitness (which they don't claim to be)?

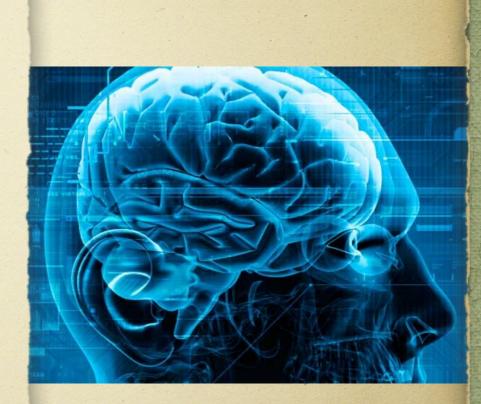
75% of criminal cases whose convictions have been overturned by DNA evidence, person convicted solely on the basis of eyewitness testimony

Sometimes: eyewitness lied to get conviction

Also likely: eyewitnesses missed important details or misremembered event even though witnessed it firsthand.

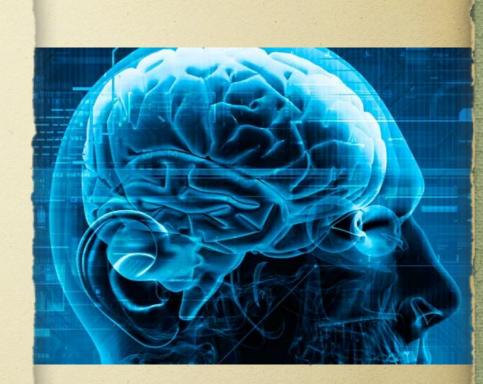


- > 1902: criminologist Franz von Liszt staged a fight at one of his lectures
- Two students faked an argument that escalated until one of them pulled out a gun and fired it.
- > Assigned some students to record what they witnessed.



One of the earliest scientific tests of eyewitness testimony.

- Another group: same assignment next day
- > Final group: week later
- Most accurate error in 26% of details
- Others: in error in as many as 80% of details



One of the earliest scientific tests of eyewitness testimony.

> 1986: space shuttle Challenger exploded

- Next day: Two psychologists at Emory University administered 7-question survey to 106 students in an undergraduate psychology class
 - > where they were when heard news
 - > what time of day it was
 - > what they were doing at the time
 - > whom they learned it from, etc



<u>1.5 Years Later</u>: 44 of the students took same questionnaire.

> Another 6 months later: interviewed 40 of the original students

75% of those who took 2nd questionnaire: certain they had never taken the first one (obviously wrong)

25%: every single answer wrong on the second questionnaire, even though their memories were vivid and they were highly confident in their answers.

Another 50%: only two of the seven questions correct.

Only 3 of the 44 got all the answers right the second time—even in those cases there were mistakes in some of the details.

Quest for the Historical Jesus Insights from 21st c. Neuroscience: #2 (of 3) When participants' confidence in their answers ranked in relation to accuracy, "no relation b/w confidence and accuracy at all" in fortytwo of the forty-four instances.

When confronted with evidence of what *really* took place, they consistently denied it and said that their present memories were the correct one.

<u>Researchers</u>: "No one who had given an incorrect account in the interview even pretended that they now recalled what was stated on the original record. As far as we can tell, the original memories are just gone."

> Replicated in other studies.

Significant for understanding our own memories as well as how Jesusand other famous figures—were/are remembered.

> Psychologists at Wesleyan University took 40 students to different locations around the campus.

> In each location instructed either to

- > perform an action,
- > imagine performing it for ten seconds,
- > watch experimenter performing action,

> imagine experimenter performing it.



Do You Remember Proposing Marriage to Pepsi Machine?

> Actions either normal or bizarre.

> <u>Library</u>:

> look up a word in dictionary

> pat dictionary & ask how it was doing.

> <u>Yard</u>:

> check Pepsi machine for change

So down on one knee and propose marriage to it.



Do You Remember Proposing Marriage to Pepsi Machine?

> Interviewed 2 weeks later

> Whether action normal or bizarre, participants who *imagined* action, often remember *doing* it

Imagining the action vividly (just one time), could produce *false* memory.

Imagining someone else performing action, led to just as many false memories as imagining doing it oneself



Do You Remember Proposing Marriage to Pepsi Machine?

> Authority of the Christian tradition does *not* rest solely on whether Jesus of Nazareth did (or did not) say or do something two millennia ago.

> Historical investigation matters—as does whether details were changed, misattributed, or invented.

Then & Now: rumors, lies, and embellishment are interspersed w/ good intentions, fact-checking, and evidence-based thinking.

Perhaps even more important: whether any given aspect of Christian tradition—or from any other source—helps us lead a more compassionate, centered, and generous life.s

UU Six Sources

- 1. **Direct experience** of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- 2. Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- 3. Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- 4. Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- 5. Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- 6. Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

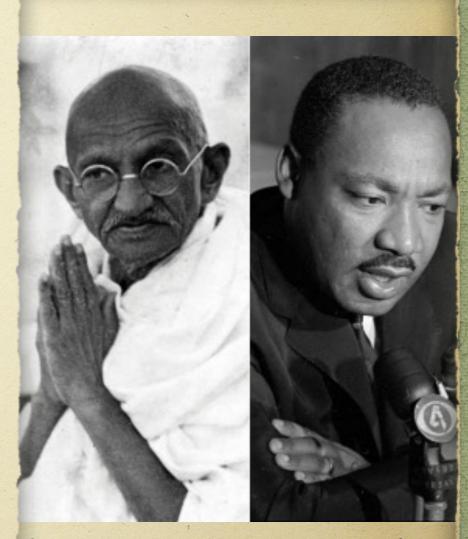
Quest for the Historical Jesus The Meaning of the Resurrection Today

> Not about whether "He is Risen"

> but whether we are willing risk rising up!

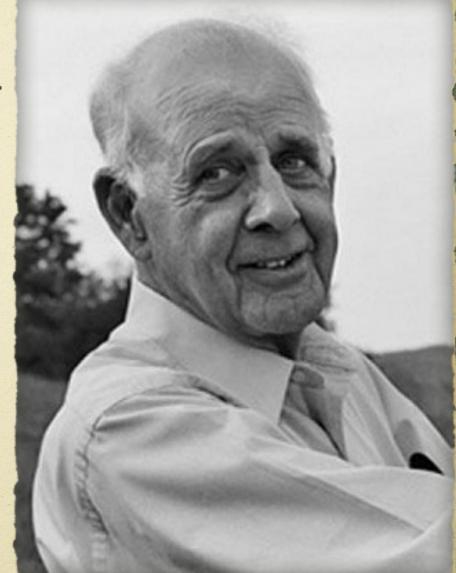
Not about whether there was a literal bodily resurrection 2,000 years ago,

but whether the way of Jesus can inspire new nonviolent activism today



Quest for the Historical Jesus The Meaning of the Resurrection Today

- > Every day do something that won't compute....
- > Love someone who does not deserve it.
- Denounce the government and embrace the flag.
 - Hope to live in that free republic for which it stands....
- Ask the questions that have no answers.
 Invest in the millennium.



Wendell Berry, "Mad Farmer Liberation Front"

Quest for the Historical Jesus The Meaning of the Resurrection Today

Plant sequoias.

Say that your main crop is the forest that you did not plant, that you will not live to harvest.

Say that the leaves are harvested when they have rotted into the mold.

Call that profit. Prophesy such returns.

Put your faith in the two inches of humus that will build under the trees every thousand years....



Wendell Berry

Practice resurrection.

and be designed to be a second

What Are People For?



Wendell Berry

6320

Essays

and the second se

of Ignorance

AND OTHER ESSAYS BY

Wendell

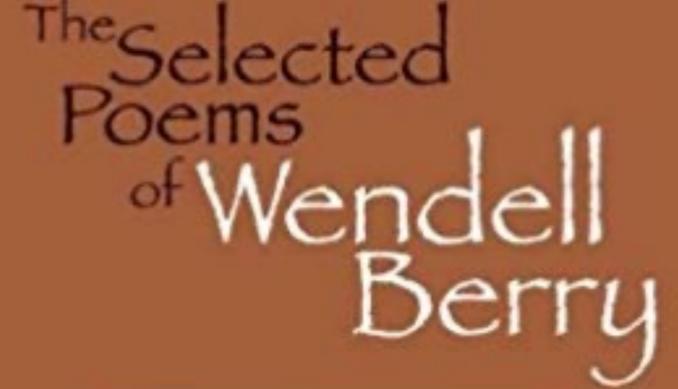
Berry CITIZENSHIP PAPERS SP

By the author of Life is a Miracle and The Unsettling of America

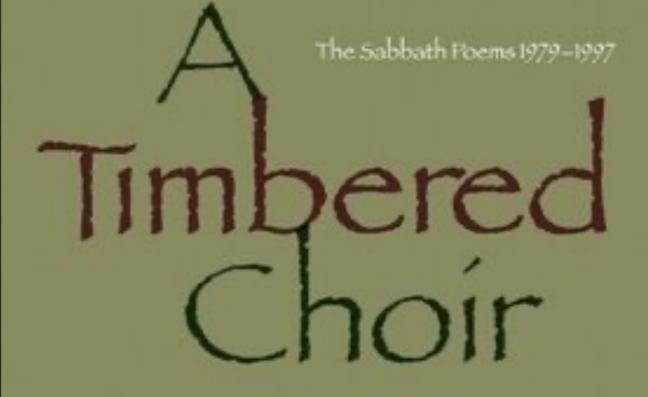
Citizenship papers, v L Materials prepared for presentation to authorities when making an application for citizenship. 2. Documents presented as proof of citizenship

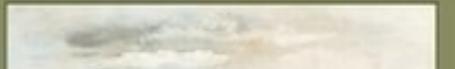
There are those in America today who seem to feel we must audition for our citizenship, with "Patriot" offered as the hadge for those found surrowly worthy. Let this book stand as SEX, ECONOMY, FREEDOM & COMMUNITY

WENDELL BERRY











- Question, Insight, Observation, Intention, Ah-ha moment ("takeaway")
- Any new connections with our themes?
 - Pilgrimage: "A tourist passes through a place, a pilgrim allows a place to pass through them."
 - Perspectives plural
 - **Peace:** "The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all" (UU Sixth Principle).

Pandemic

- The Unitarian Universalist Association wisely recommends virtual operations through May 2021—unless there is a breakthrough vaccine or therapeutic. (More details <u>here</u>.)
- If it's not safe for us to meet in person at UUCF on Sunday mornings, then it's definitely not safe to travel internationally.
- Medji has adjusted their terms and condition such that no further money is due until 60 days in advance—so we technically have until very early November to make a decision.
- I want this trip to be special and fun—and not dominated by concerns about wearing masks, washing our hands constantly, and fear of getting COVID while overseas.
- One option might be to delay until January 2022.