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D.Flusser and R.S,Notley , The Sage From Galilee : Redescoving Jesus' Genuis  
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Davis Flusser, was a featured speaker at many symposia in Jerusalem and amazing insights into the teachings of Jesus. By reading this book I can see how true that is. I feel by reading this book You can really see what it was like in the time of Jesus, how things were done and a background about Jesus that you cant get from just reading the Gospels but deeper into his life.

The first chapter is the Sources on the Life of Jesus I love how the author points out on page 169 'that we can hardly expect to find information about Jesus in non- christian sources " I find this statement to be true because if you were to look in certain non- christian documents you really could not find things about Jesus, his life or ministry. The statement the author makes in this chapter on page 211"The enormity of Jesus' life also speaks to this today :the call at his baptism ,the severing of ties with his estranged family and his discovery of a new sublime sonship , the pandemonium of the sick and possessedand his death at the cross. This is so true today because by looking at his life and following him we should be an example of his life and love to others. The second chapter would be the Ancestry of Jesus, where he came from and as we can see on page 232"Jesus Christ means "Jesus the Messiah" According to ancient Jewish belief the Messiah was to be a descendant of David-the son of David, both Matthew (1:2-16) and Luke (3:23-38) provide a genalogical tree for Jesus leading back to David". It goes

on in this chapter to talk about his family, where he was born and his ministry and what I thought was interesting in this chapter is that his family, brothers and sisters did not believe at first but later on some of them did come to believe. In Chapter three we read about the Baptism, John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus and preaching repentance and coming back to God. Jesus getting baptized was a way of showing great humility and even though John was reluctant to baptize Jesus, it was fulfilling everything that was to happen. The author also describes baptism on page 350 as a "Traditional Jewish baptismal baths merely washed ritual uncleanness from the body" so to me repentance also needs to come from the heart along with the washing of the water. Chapter Four is about the law and reading this chapter makes me realize how true it was what Jesus said to the Scribes and Pharisees in (Matt23:27-28) "Woe to you scribes and pharisees, hypocrites, for you are like white washed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful but within they are full of dead man's bones and all uncleanness". They thought they were serving God by following the laws, but they only wanted power and did it for the wrong reasons not to do the right thing. Chapter 5 is about love and the different views of it. On Page 787 and in (Matt7:12) it says to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you" if we want people to treat us a certain way, and forgive us when we are wrong so must we treat others the same and forgive them as well. If we think about how much he loves us and forgives us, it is important to forgive and love others too. Chapter 6 is Ethics, In this chapter it talks about humility and putting God first. On page 867 and in (Matt6:24) "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the other, you cannot serve God and money". I always found this verse to be true, because we can't serve God with our whole hearts if we put money or anything before him and doing what he calls us to do, and by putting him first he provides for us. Chapter 7 is The Kingdom of Heaven and how it was already at hand when he came. What the author wrote here in this chapter says it all to me on page 1122 "The fact that Jesus has spoken about the period of the kingdom of heaven, instead of the days of the Messiah, hints to his own Messianic self-awareness". There is also a passage on page 1030 and in (Matt21:31-32) "Truly I say unto you, the tax collectors, and the harlots go into the kingdom of heaven before you". The ones that thought

they were worthy to enter the kingdom of God were not the ones that were chosen to enter, rather the ones who repented and believed will be the ones. Chapter eight is sonship and they were many times that you heard the Father call Jesus "my, son" The first was at the baptism (Matt;3v13-17) "This is my son in whom I am well pleased". Another time was at the transfiguration (Matt17v5) "While he was still speaking a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said "This is my son, whom I love, with him I am well pleased. Listen to him. Jesus knew his sonship would lead to death and that he would be rejected. Like it says on page 1294 and (Psalm 118v20) "The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head" "Jesus was sure that even if the Son were to be killed, his cause would be victorious". This says it all, because in the end he was victorious.

Chapter 9. This Chapter is the Son Of God. It starts off on page 1305 with "Jesus asking his disciples "Who do you say that I am"? (Luke 9v18-20), they answered, some say Elijah, and others, that you are one of the ancient prophets that has risen". And he said to them "but who do you say that I am"? and Peter answered "The Christ of God". This is the first revelation of someone really knowing who he was and still not completely understanding what it all meant, but that Jesus was truly the Son Of God, The Messiah.

Chapter 10 This chapter is about Jerusalem, The City Of David. The place that Jesus would lament over because they would not believe. On page 1415 (Luke 13v34-35) "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I longed to gather your children, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing! Look your house is left desolate." They would not even listen to him even when he longed for them to come and they were given the chance.

Chapter 11 is Death, and on page 1600 the author has a good point "Was it an official assembly of the Sanhedrin that condemned Jesus to death"? , John knew nothing about it, and in the whole of Luke -not just in his description of the passion - a verdict of the supreme court is not even mentioned, Only Mark was the first to alter the ancient report ". I found this interesting how only one of the Gospels mentions it, we know after that they handed Jesus over to Pilate who then ordered him to be crucified.

Chapter 12 is the Epilogue and I love how the author talks about the "historical" Jesus and what the "Christology" of the Christian faith "believes" page 1841. I also love at the end on page 1859 what the author wrote "He set out

to accomplish in this book was sound scholarship in the quest for the historical Jesus and not simply in the point of Jewishness". This he did accomplish very well in my opinion.

One of the strengths of this book is the details that the author provides it is amazing and it makes you feel like you can visualize yourself in that time and have a greater understanding of Jesus' life this could be a weakness as well as many details as there were I would have to see more. I recommend this book because it tells about the life of Jesus in a way that I have never read before . I really enjoyed this book very much.