

The Sage from Galilee

The sage from Galilee Rediscovering Jesus' Genius was written by David Flusser with R. Steven Notely. David Flusser first published this book on the historical Jesus, in German in 1968 he could not have imagined where this effort of his part would lead. He was one of the first Jewish scholars in the modern era to attempt such a book written with both cognizance of the scholarly discussion and with critical acumen. He did not expect that he would in due course receive such a warm response from a variety of audiences, including even conservative Christian ones. This newly revised edition of David Flusser's historical biography marks the tenth anniversary of the initiative by Magnes press to publish in English Flusser's important German work by the same title. Flusser's knowledge of early Judaism and its sources was vast. He was that rare scholar who had a profound grasp of the requisite languages, culture, physical setting, archaeology, as well as the literary sources. He also had a keen interest in Jesus, and in the intellectual pursuit of the understanding of him as a crucial historical figure. He modeled the virtue of a commitment to lifelong learning coupled with a commitment to revise one's views as time went on as the evidence required it. He passionately believed that Jesus has something to say to our current world situation and human dilemmas. He

believed that Jesus' life and teaching should influence how we conduct our lives today.

Chapter 1 mainly discuss about the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The first three Gospels are primarily based upon common historical material, while the fourth Gospel, John is correctly regarded as more concerned with presenting a theological perspective. As mention in the book the early Christian accounts about Jesus are not as untrustworthy as scholars today often think. The first three Gospels not only present a reasonably faithful picture of Jesus as a Jew of his own time, but they even consistently retain his way of speaking about Savior in the third person. This chapter also mention about the literary interdependence of the Synoptic Gospels is called the "Synoptic problem." Based on the book the problem was that Luke preserves, in comparison with Mark (and Matthew when depending on Mark). Luke wrote before Mark. Mark then reworked the Gospel material and unfavorably influenced Mathew who followed Mark's version closely. It is also important to add that Mathew, when independent of Mark, frequently preserves the earlier sources of the earlier sources of the life of Jesus that lie behind Luke's Gospel.

Chapter 2 mainly discuss about the Ancestry of Jesus. In this chapter you can find that in Jesus' day the name was pronounced "Yeshua"

sometimes he is called “Yeshu”. Jesus was one of the most common of Jewish names. The ancient Jewish historian, Josephus Flavius, mentions twenty men with this name. The first is Joshua of the bible, Moses’ successor who conquered the Holy land. The miraculous account of Jesus’ birth is to be found in the two dependent literary versions of Matthew and Luke. Jesus was a Galilean Jew who was probably born in Nazareth. He lived for about thirty years until the time of his baptism by John. He was baptized either A.D 27/28 or A.D 28/29. Jesus had four brothers and several sisters. His mother was name Mary, Jesus was her first-born child. Jesus’ father died before Jesus was baptized. According to the chapter Jesus was uneducated, that he had “never studied.” When Jesus’ sayings are examined against the background of contemporaneous Jewish learning, however, it is easy to observe that Jesus was far from uneducated. He was perfectly at home both in holy scripture and in oral tradition, and he know how to apply this scholarly heritage. Some outsiders would address Jesus as “Rabbi” my teacher/master. According to the chapter after Jesus’ baptism he did not return home instead he went to Capernaum. After his death the mother of Jesus and his brethren joined the apostles in Jerusalem. The Lord’s brother, James, came to believe as a result of a resurrection appearance. The other brothers were later converted to faith,

and with their wives they accepted the hospitality of the congregations. James, the brother of the Lord. Was succeeded as head of the church in Jerusalem by Simeon, as cousin of Jesus. After Jesus' death, his family, therefore, overcame their disbelief, and assumed an honorable place in the young Jewish-Christian community.

Chapter 3 mainly spoke about Baptism, where John the Baptist went out into the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins. Traditional Jewish baptismal baths merely washed ritual uncleanness from the body. As mention in this chapter Essene view, however, a sin committed brings ritual uncleanness, and so, "no one may enter the water unless he has repented of his evil, because uncleanness clings to all transgressors of his word. Just like mention in the reading Baptist water can cleanse the body only If the Soul has first been purified through righteousness. The purpose of Baptism is so that you can fully believe god and you want to god to help you so they can forgive your sins and latter with the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 4 is about Law, Christian thinkers and scholar felt obliged to deal with the fact that the founder of their religion was a Jew, faithful to the law, who never had to face the necessity of adapting his Judaism to the European way of life. For Jesus there was, of course, the peculiar problems

of his relationship to the law and its precepts, but this arises for every believing Jew who takes his Judaism seriously. In the Gospels, we can see how Jesus' attitude to the law has sometimes become unrecognized as the result of "clarification" by the Evangelists and touching up by later revisers. The book also mention that Jesus is a faithful law-observant Jew. In this chapter Pharisees were also mention and they were a society who members as we have said had voluntarily accepted certain prescriptions of purity and other obligations.

Chapter 5 is about love; in this chapter it was mainly about showing love. According to the reading it was difficulty of knowing how far God's love and mercy extended, many concluded that one ought to show love and mercy toward all, both righteous and wicked, I really enjoyed this quote from the book "Love your enemies" (Matt. 5:44) In other words, "Return love to those hate you" or: "Do good to those who hate you" (Luke 6:27) this beautiful but it is easier said than done. This chapter is basically telling us to show love and show forgiveness, however you want to be treated you should treat others like that.

Chapter 6 is about Ethics, in this chapter it spoked about how Jesus was unwilling to assent to their ideological and economic separation. For both the Essenes and Jesus, poverty, humility, purity, and unsophisticated

simplicity of heart were the essential religious virtues. According to the reading the essence discovery that evil can be overcome with good has proved a mighty weapon in the history of the world. History has shown that an enemy can be overcome by goodness, even if one does not love him and even if he becomes no better as a result of the good that is done to him. This chapter mainly focus on behavior and treating others. Jesus' concept of the righteousness of God, Man cannot measure it, but he can grasp it. I really like this last sentence no one can be measure they can only be taught if not done enough.

Chapter 7 was about the kingdom of Heaven, in this chapter it mainly talked about how Jesus had preached the kingdom of heaven. "Heaven" is a circumlocution for "God" and people in general believed that when kingdom of God came, Israel would be freed from the yoke of Rome. According to the reading for Jesus and the rabbis, the kingdom of God is both present and future, but their perspectives are different. The kingdom of heaven was identical with the messianic period, it was no longer, as in rabbinic thought, an eternal suprahistorical entity. It became a dynamic force that broke through into the world at an identifiable point in history.

Chapter 8 was about son, which is Jesus, he is portrayed in the Gospel as a miracle worker. The miracle-worker is close to God than other

men. Jesus was like a son to God, sonship for him was also the consequences of his election thoroughly the heavenly voice at baptism. Jesus' sonship therefore leads, not to life, but to the death that other prophets before him had suffered. After the transfiguration, his awareness of sonship of God was linked with the premonition that he had die.

Chapter 9 was about the son of the man; this chapter talk about how they had identified John the Baptist with Elijah who was to return. Elijah was only one aspect of a hope in the renewal of prophecy that would be initiated by a prophet at the end of time. Jesus speaks about handing over of the "son of man," and in both he speaks about his tragic end at the hands of men. In the first case (Luke 9:44) Jesus ("the son of man") will be delivered into the hands of men. ("sons of men"), while in the second case (Luke 22:21-22) he speaks about the man. According to the reason Jesus used the title "the son of man" with three meanings. The third type was used by Jesus, as it is in Hebrew discourse today,

Chapter 10 was about Jerusalem and chapter 11 was about death which concluded this book. In chapter 10 it talks about how Herod Antipas believed that Jesus was the Baptist, who m he had beheaded, raised from the dead, and he was prepared to kill him "again." Jesus knew that his life was in danger, but he did not want to die in Galilee, where he had been

preaching the Kingdom of heaven. He would die in Jerusalem, reputed for killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you. Jesus' words and actions in Jerusalem precipitated the catastrophe. Chapter 11 was about how Jesus die. According to like the proceedings took place after that anguished night. Jesus suffered badly before he dies, he was abused and then later hanged. I highly recommend reading this book because you can get a good summary of the Jesus, from the beginning until the end. To me it was like a summary of his life knowing the details.