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David Flusser, The Sage from Galilee ; Rediscovering Jesus' Genius

The book, The Sage from Galilee, Rediscovering Jesus Genius is so informative and impactful at the same time. The author reveals in depth about the life of Jesus both as a Jewish who wanted to remain with the Jewish faith and as well as The Christ who practiced Christian Faith and this was his main Ministry. So in this book I like and appreciate the way the layout makes the reader and audience have a better understanding. The author mainly focuses on the New Testament and particularly the first four books of the New Testament which are the synoptic Gospels namely Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.This is where we learn more about Jesus' life. This is such a profound layout since it let us know and understand Jesus' history not only during his Ministry but as from his birth, his Baptism and his experience on earth till his death on the Cross and to his ascension. Hence knowing Jesus from Genealogy, gives a more deeper understanding, his ancestral thread is worth knowing including his parents and his brothers is a fascinating experience not to be left out .

David Flusser the author argues that, " without the long preparatory work of contemporaneous Jewish faith, the teaching of Jesus would be unthinkable".(pg xii). Meaning that without the Jewish Faith it seems to portray like he abandoned his Jewish religion so it was going to tarnish his image and devalue his influence and person as the son of God. Mostly he also articulates where he stands as an author, Dr. Flusser is not there to convert from Judaism to Christianity for him it is two different things. He is there to critically analyze Jesus' life as a Jew in Faith and Christianity. So Dr. Flusser is there not to mix or criticize religions. However he is there to illuminate and interpret in part Jesus person and opinion within the framework of his time and people, also to simply serve as Jesus' mouthpeace for Jesus message today. I can as well say yes he was so humble to the extent that even though he was the son of God, Jesus Christ did not abandon his earthly parents/family . His father Joseph was a Jewish and he is the one whom David was his descendant and that's how and why we see Jesus sticking to the Jewish faith. I also agree and appreciate the authors

precisely on Jesus that the content of his teachings and approach he embraced have always have the potential to change the world as a whole and prevented the greatest part of evil and suffering". "Preface. (pg.xviii) And all being done not only as a Jew but as well as a Christian too.

The content of the book is mainly focusing on Jesus' life on earth from the sources , Ancestry leading to birth , baptism as he initially begins his Ministry , law Love which he emphasized is the greatest and double commandment apparently bringing different people together regardless of religions and background, Ethics The Kingdom of heaven which is mostly mentioned in the Gospels, the Son , The Son of Man , Jerusalem and ultimately his Death. Jesus became so influential and so powerful that his life, experience and teachings impacted and attracted so many people both positively to those who believed and negatively to those who did not believe or who for some reason rejected his message. The author brings our mindset to reality including some research that he did and always referring to the Synoptic Gospels and the other parts in the Bible scriptures. He argues that this book does not set out to build a bridge between the Historical Jesus and the Christian Faith. "Sources. (Pg 4)

Firstly I picked *ANCESTRY,* being one the chapters I chose. It is very important to have knowledge about the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah , since he was born physically but with exception that his mother became pregnant not of human conception but by the Spirit, Luke 1;18-33. So since Mary was married to Joseph, he became the earthly father of Jesus and his genealogy plays a very important role in Jesus' life. Also from this chapter we learn that Jesus had a decent family , he also had 4 brothers and several sisters and he grew up in a steady Jewish Faith family who were devout people. There is so much more information from research which I never heard before but tend to know that Jesus father died before his Baptism which we don't hear because the main focus is on Jesus the Messiah. We also learn that Jesus was not educated but was full of wisdom and knowledge, Luke 2;52. He was not a scribe either but some call him Teacher others called him Rabbi , it's something that I learned from this chapter, they also called him son of a carpenter , of which carpenters were highly recognised as they could solve all the problems and were regarded very smart . The author supports that Jesus was so smart but not educated literally.

The second chapter I picked is *BAPTISM.* It is so very relevant to learn about Baptism because that's when Jesus got born again earthly even though he was sinless. Jesus got baptized to fulfill the law and as the son of God and as

Jewish Faith practice, our perfect example. In the bible and as well in the book, The Sage from Galilee, Jesus only started his full time Ministry after he was baptized by John The Baptist “baptizm”(pg 23) the book states very well and also Matthew 3;17, Mark 1;11. The voice of God was heard from heaven, one of very significance for Jesus that was different from all who were baptized but John. Soon after this we hear Jesus started his Ministry and miracles started to happen , but that time John the Baptist was arrested . Jesus began his Ministry in the absence of John who Baptized him. Baptism signifies a very important step in repentance .People used to confess their sins and then were cleansed through baptism. As for Dr. Flusser highlighted that he was a son of God who knew no sin but he fulfilled the word of God written in Isaiah 42;1 “baptism” (pg. 21) Here the author doesn’t really argue but there is a question , when John the Baptist send his disciples to ask if he was the one to come yet , He John is the one who baptized Jesus saying he is greater than him John “baptism” (pg. 25).

The ‘*Son of man*” is the last chapter I picked and mostly not many people called Jesus as the “son of man” but he himself confirms it several times in the Bible.There was an occasion when Jesus asked his disciples whom they think he was,(Luke 9;18-20)” who do the people say that I am “, and Peter answered “ The Christ of God”. Jesus replied that “ Blessed you are Simon Bar Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my father who is in heaven.” The Son of Man” (pg107). Jesus always spoke of ‘ The son of Man’, as the 3rd person but not actually saying to me meaning himself. This term was used several times in the Bible. But as from the Author’s point of View, he meant himself but he said it in a way that even his disciples sometimes could not understand him.

This book brought so much revelation and understanding pertaining to who Jesus was .Mostly Dr. Flusser’s arguments are convincing and he compare all the Gospels with each Authors clear knowledge or lack of knowledge, For Instance he had a lot of questions with John’s scripts not being clarified, because he always refer to the Bible especially the New Testament and Jesus is worth of the Title , Sage from Galilee .No one really understood his way of operating from miracles to his teaching . His life was in the form of a human but he was more on the spiritual side.He was one of the most intelligent and full of wisdom and knowledge because he is God himself but people turn not to understand him.The author is trying to let us know who the true Jesus was and his teaching , Ministry and as the son of God .So he revealed more of Jesus History and Ministry on earth.

Work cited

David Flusser. R.Steven Notley ; The Sage from Galilee. *Rediscovering Jesus' Genius.* Matthew(2;17, 3;17), Mark(1;11) . Luke (2;52, 9;18-20) and John New International Version.