

New Testament

Miguel Andrade

Professor R. Steven Notley

02/28/2023

Book Review Drop Box - The Sage from Galilee

The Sage from Galilee: In his 192-page book *Rediscovering Jesus' Genius*, Vilém Flusser examines Jesus' life and teachings from a fresh and provocative angle. Jewish philosopher Flusser views Jesus as a knowledgeable teacher instead of a divine figure, and he makes use of his in-depth understanding of Jewish history and philosophy to situate Jesus in his time and place. An intriguing and thought-provoking book, *The Sage from Galilee* will encourage readers to reevaluate their perspectives on Jesus. Nonetheless, those hoping for a more conventionally Christian understanding of Jesus could find the book's perspective to be difficult or contentious. The book, which sells for \$19.95 in paperback, is an excellent addition to any religious or philosophical collection.

German-Czech philosopher Vilém Flusser (1920–1991) is renowned for his work to the fields of media and communication philosophy. He published a lot of writing on the social and cultural impacts of emerging media technologies while teaching media theory in So Paulo, Brazil. In addition, Flusser had a keen interest in Jewish heritage, which he addressed in his philosophical and theological writings.

Flusser became a Christian in the 1960s and started exploring the life and messages of Jesus from a fresh angle. His book, "*The Sage from Galilee: Rediscovering Jesus' Genius*," explores Jesus as a great sage and teacher rather than as a heavenly person.

Flusser challenged conventional Christian readings of Jesus' teachings by contextualizing them in light of his extensive understanding of Hebrew history and philosophy.

Flusser's contributions to discourse analysis and media theory are still being researched and honored, especially in the disciplines of media studies and modern media art. He additionally had a profound influence on theological and philosophical thought via his investigation of Jesus and the Bible's teachings. Vilém Flusser is a dominant person in the history of ideas due to his original viewpoint and interdisciplinary approach to philosophy and religion.

"The Sage from Galilee: Rediscovering Jesus' Genius" by Vilém Flusser is organized into four parts, each exploring a different aspect of Jesus' teachings and life.

In Part I, Flusser examines Jesus' concept of the Kingdom of God, arguing that it was a radical departure from traditional Jewish beliefs. He explores the nature of the Kingdom and the role of the Messiah in bringing it about.

In Part II, Flusser delves into Jesus' ethical teachings, arguing that they were focused on the individual's relationship with God and the importance of love and forgiveness. He analyzes the Sermon on the Mount and other parables, demonstrating how they illustrate Jesus' ethical principles.

In Part III, Flusser examines Jesus' relationship with the Jewish tradition, arguing that Jesus sought to reform and renew Judaism rather than opposing it. He explores Jesus' teachings in light of Jewish history and culture and discusses the implications of Jesus' Jewishness for modern Christianity.

Finally, in Part IV, Flusser discusses the nature of Jesus' divinity, arguing that Jesus was not just a human being but also the embodiment of God's love and wisdom. He

examines the significance of Jesus' teachings for understanding the nature of God and humanity.

David Flusser's book "The Sage of Galilee" presents a distinctive viewpoint on Jesus' teachings by prominently using his knowledge of Jewish history and culture. Flusser's focus on Jesus' Jewishness enables him to present a novel and fascinating perspective on a person who has long been a source of inspiration. In contrast to many previous writers who have written about Jesus, Flusser's method illuminates his ideas in a fresh way.

I believe this book to be fascinating and thought-provoking, and I strongly advise it to anybody who is considering studying philosophy, religion, or Jewish history. It is appropriate for broad readers due to the clear writing and approachable tone, and it provides a significant addition to the study of Jesus and his ideas. I'll sum up by saying that "The Sage of Galilee" is a book that everyone who wants to learn more about Jesus and the historical and cultural setting in which he lived should read.