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3/7/23
New Testament Literature
Dr. Steve Notley

This is a book summary of the book **“The Sage from Galilee Rediscovering Jesus’ Genius”** by David Flusser and R. Steven Notley with the introduction by James H. Charlesworth. The 191-page book that was published in August of 2007 is available on Amazon with 4.4-star rating and is available for \$24.00 USD new and as low as \$3.18 USD in acceptable used condition. Dr. R. Steven Notley who will be referred to as Notley from this point on wrote the book using many of Dr. David Flusser who will be referred to as Flusser notes and ideas of who Jesus might have really been like as a human being walking on earth.

Flusser was born in Vienna, Austria in 1917 and was an Israeli Professor who attended both Charles University and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He received doctorate in 1989 from Theology by the Catholic Faculty of Theology of Lucerne, Switzerland. He has published over 1000 articles in over three languages. Flusser passed away on his 83rd birthday in 2000.

Notley is a Bible professor at Alliance University formerly known as Nyack College in New York City. He serves as the Chair of the College's Bible and Theological Studies Department. Notley was born and raised in the United States and lived in Jerusalem for 16 years. He received his PhD. from Jerusalem University and is the author of many books and articles that span from “the fields of historical geography, ancient Judaism and Christian origins”.

Chapter one starts with the purpose of the book which is “to show that it is possible to write the story of Jesus’ life”. “The sources” are the people who knew Jesus the best and how they saw him. This is helpful because we got to know Jesus but at the same time Jesus didn’t write the bible himself so we have no idea what he was thinking and why he did the things that he did. The chapter then goes on to portray that although Matthew, Mark and Luke wrote about the teachings and life of Jesus that Matthew and Luke’s depiction might have been the most authentic according to R.L Lindsey because they preserved their early sources.

Chapter two called Ancestry talks about Jesus' genealogy and family origin. Notley talks about how Jesus is often referred to as the Jesus the Messiah and how messiah means Son of David. However, it was Joseph who was a descendant to King David and not Mary but this didn’t seem

to matter as Mary and Joseph were from the same tribe of Judah. The chapter then goes on to talk about Jesus' birth and the census that brought them to Bethlehem and how Jesus and his seven siblings were then raised in Nazareth. It is also interesting to note that there is no mention of Joseph after Jesus is taken to the temple in Jerusalem. It is believed that he died while Jesus was still a child himself

Chapter three called the Baptism describes the relationship between Jesus, John the Baptist and their mothers. John who represents all of us humans who knows that Jesus is the Son of God still questions and challenges Jesus. You also see how John learns the power of forgiveness and learns to let go of his anger. The chapter then goes on to describe the baptism of Jesus and how it represents a greater meaning to Christians as a symbol of obedience.

Chapter four called Law describes some of the laws that were in place such as washing your hands before a meal, keeping the sabbath and the importance of these laws. You also see how Jesus talks to and deals with both the Pharisees and Sadducees. You can see that the Pharisees and the Sadducees enjoyed belittling people and quoting the law and the Torah when it was convenient for them but when Jesus did the same to them then they would have a problem with it.

Chapter five which is called Love depicts that we all have come short of the glory of God and he still loves us so we should love each other and show mercy despite our differences. No one is perfect nor will they be perfect but we should still strive to live a life of goodness and morality.

The only reading that I could compare this book to is **Spiritual Journey: Can I Really Get Close to God** by Dr. Wanda Walborn, 2021. I'm not sure if there is a true comparison between the two or if it's just because it was one of the last books that I read. In the book the author presents different obstacles that we face during our Christian walk and how we can overcome these obstacles. I saw a lot of comparisons between some of the obstacles we struggle with as Christians to the obstacles that Jesus also faced as a man. One that comes to mind right away is anger. As Christian we think that we aren't allowed to get angry but we can see throughout Jesus' life that there were plenty of times that he was angry. But there is a right way to deal with and express anger.

In conclusion I found the book *The Sage from Galilee Rediscovering Jesus' Genius* to be very interesting. It certainly made me stop and think more about Jesus as the person and things he saw and felt during his time on earth. This book really opened my eyes to see that everything in

Jesus' life was ordained by God so that he would teach us the way and die for our sins so that if we accept him as our Lord and savior that we will have everlasting life with him in heaven. I will definitely be rereading this book in the future. I would also recommend this book to anyone who is interested in learning more about Jesus and wanting to see him from a different perspective.

Biblical Archaeology Society, About R. Steve Notley, 2023

[R. Steven Notley - Biblical Archaeology Society](#)

Flusser, David, Notley, R. Steven, Charlesworth, James H., The Sage from Galilee
Rediscovering Jesus' Genius, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Cambridge, UK, 2007