

Yerilyn Custodio

Student ID:118278

Exploring the Message of Flusser in "*The Sage from Galilee: Rediscovering Jesus' Genius*" A Book

Review

Divided over twelve comprehensive chapters, the book entitled, "*The Sage from Galilee: Rediscovering Jesus' Genius*" written by David Flusser (2007) demonstrates that the teachings of Jesus can't be practiced within its cultural context to fully embrace them. In its entirety, the message of the book resonates with the general population as the author has kept the layout of the book easy to understand for the readers. It can also be stated that the author has argued and challenged the traditional interpretation or translations of the teachings of Jesus and rather establishes the narrative that the Jewish faith has its inherent impact on the teachings of Jesus. Flusser claims that Jesus was, indeed, a Jew and his religious background is majorly impacted by it.

In particular, the second chapter of the book entitled, "*The Ancestry*" takes a deeper dive into understanding the background of Jesus. The teachings and the overall message for humanity given by Jesus are impacted directly by his background. In other words, the chapter helps the readers in understanding that the lineage of Jesus has influenced his views of the world to a large extent. To ensure that such an argument is effectively communicated, the author has incorporated specific evidence such as the integration of genealogy (Flusser). To Specifically point out the genealogies identified within the chapter, the author Flusser included Mathew 1:1-17 and Luke (3:23-38) to elaborate on the lineage of Jesus. It makes the overall message of the chapter compelling and based on significant evidence.

Another significant chapter in the book remains chapter number third, entitled, "*Baptism*" which covers the aspect of baptism and how it directly impacted the teachings of Jesus. Important subjects such as repentance have been studied within the context of baptism. The evidence which has been

included and presented by the author in the book includes the four Gospels to ensure that the readers can fully apprehend the paramount significance of baptism and the teachings of Jesus for humanity (Flusser). At the same time, the author within the context of the third chapter of the book highlighted the significance of baptism and the presence of the practice within the Judaism religion for many centuries demonstrating the overall connectedness of baptism with the aspects of faith, belief, and repentance.

Moreover, the fourth chapter of the book called the "Kingdom of God" represents the argument of the author that the message of Jesus gives increased concentration to the understanding of the Kingdom of God. The evidence that the author has provided for his mentioned argument within the chapter includes the use of parables by Jesus. The author states that Jesus has shared several parables which illustrated the Kingdom of God and all the blessings that it had to offer to the righteous followers (Flusser). Another piece of evidence included in the chapter is the sermon on the mount which explains how the Kingdom of God is perceived. Herein, it is critical to note that the focus of the author is towards the challenge, which was posed against the Messiah, as translated in the Judaism religion, which shows the coming of the Kingdom of God.

In each chapter, the author has highlighted the respective narrative regarding each topic including baptism, the kingdom of God, and the ancestry of Jesus to closely evaluate how they all impacted the message and teaching of Jesus. One can easily observe that the author has embraced the importance of Jewish views and translations to understand the cultural and religious background of Jesus. The author takes pride in discussing the relationship between the teachings of Jesus and the century-old traditions of the Jewish culture.

It can be stated that the author's argument is relevant and convincing because it is based on historical evidence. The book takes a closer understanding of the life of Jesus and how his message can

be effectively translated and practiced in real-life. I also feel that the core focus of demystifying Jesus is effective because followers need to understand the role of Jesus being a messenger of God who not only gave the message for those who followed Christianity but also for overall humanity (Flusser). Thus, I can state that I agree with the overall message and argument of the author in each chapter. The focus on the understanding of the relationship between the Jewish context of understanding Jesus and his message goes hand in hand.

Conclusively, the author has provided and presented a refreshing view for understanding the role of Jesus and the application of his teachings. At the same time, the readers can understand how different aspects of the life of Jesus have affected his worldview that ultimately helped the followers to practice in life. Indeed, the message of the author is compelling and thought-provoking, helping the general readers to learn important aspects of archaeological evidence. Unequivocally, the book is foundational when it comes to learning and translating the New Testament. Through the help of the book, the readers can gain a wealth of knowledge regarding the genealogy of Jesus and how the lineage has impacted the message which is for humanity to follow and practice in life.

Work Cited

Flusser, D. *The Sage from Galilee: Rediscovering Jesus' Genius*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2007.