

“The Real Jesus”

2 Cor 11:3-4

Introduction:

- A. *U.S. News and World Report* recently had a article titled “The Real Jesus.”
 - 1. A subtitle read, “Somewhere between Mel Gibson’s Jesus and the Biblical Jesus.”
 - 2. Article purported to show that modern historians have debunked the “traditional” Jesus.
- B. Many books have joined the search for “the real Jesus.”
- C. In searching for the real Jesus, let’s notice many places where people look and the Jesus they find.

Discussion:

I. The Popular Press

- A. A Jesus who was zealous reformer of the Jewish system of his day.
- B. A Jesus who did not intend to start a new religious movement.
- C. A Jesus who was much later deified by his “fanatical” followers.

II. Religious Modernism

- A. A non-miraculous Jesus – every “miracle” given a natural explanation.
 - 1. Modernist look for natural explanations for all Biblical miracles.
 - 2. Modernism’s Jesus was not born of a “virgin”, but merely a “young woman” (cf. Isa. 7:14 rsv)
 - 3. Modernism’s Jesus was truly raised, only his cause was resurrected.
- B. The “son of God”, but only in the sense we are all sons of God.

III. Dramatic productions

- A. These productions (plays, skits and movies) either must embellish or distort Bible truth.
 - 1. Any Jesus production has to fill time and space with imaginary words and action.
 - 2. A “Christmas” play must have a definite number of wise men – Bible infinite.
 - 3. A “Passion” play must give Jesus a definite appearance – Bible infinite.
- B. The Bible emphasizes the words and deeds of Jesus – not appearance and dramatic effects of drama.
- C. How can one produce a hour or two production based on so little Bible text without additions?
 - 1. A passion play or movie takes two hours to say something similar to two verses (John 19:17-18)
 - 2. Does the warning against adding to the word not apply to appearance and acts or only to words? (Deut. 29:29; 1 Cor. 4:6; 2 John 9-11)

IV. Denominational Dogma

- A. A Jesus that saves anyone who believes (cf. John 12:42)
- B. A Jesus receives sinners “as they are, where they are.” (cf. John 8:11)
- C. A Jesus that leaves man worship as he pleases and choose the church of his choice (cf. Matt. 15:9)
- D. A Jesus to all loving and never condemning (cf. Matt. 23)

V. Apostolic Writings

- A. The Jesus whose life was a miracle.
 - 1. His virgin birth (Matt. 1:18-25)
 - 2. His resurrection (1 Cor. 15:1-8)
 - 3. His many miracles between these (John 20:20, 21)
- B. The Jesus who claimed to be God and proved it by his works (Mark 2:5-11)
- C. The Jesus whose works and words were verified by competent witnesses (Lk. 1:1-2; 2 Pet. 1:16)
- D. The Jesus who fulfilled all the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah (Luke 24:44-48)
- E. The Jesus who has all authority and expects our total obedience and commitment (Matt. 28:18-20)
- F. The Jesus who established his church/kingdom on the day of Pentecost (Matt. 16:18; Acts 2)

Conclusion:

- A. If you want to find the real Jesus, you must look in the right place.
- B. The real Jesus said, “If you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15)