



The Real Jesus: The Misguided Quest for the Historical Jesus and the Truth of the Traditional Gospels

By Luke Timothy Johnson

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Finally, a passionately argued but fair response to the Jesus Seminar (The Five Gospels, LJ 2/15/94) from an established scholar. Johnson has a double purpose: to provide an outspoken but courteous critique of the output of this small minority of mostly second-line scholars and to address the confusion in the church over the relationship between history and faith. These scholars are joined by a large number of amateurs using the same clearly defective methodology to bypass the scholarly process for a highly effective public relations "culture war" in the news media and publishing industry. They commonly claim to have previously unknown or suppressed data, usually a nonliteral or symbolic interpretation of the Gospels to produce "history" and promote provocative conclusions that would force radical reinterpretation or rejection of traditional Christianity. This book should be in any religious collection to help provide balance to the current historical Jesus literature. It could well be supplemented by *The Jesus Quest* (InterVarsity, 1995), an excellent survey of the full range of "historical Jesus" literature. Highly recommended. Eugene O. Bowser, Univ. of Northern Colorado, Greeley

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From [Booklist](#)

Though Johnson insists that he is a quiet scholar reluctant to engage in public polemic, his entrance into this battle is anything but reticent. He launches an attack on presentation of recent historical Jesus research in the popular press directed more at the Jesus Seminar (a group of scholars that has been at the forefront of such research for more than a decade) than at the press itself (pictured as manipulated rather than manipulator). Behind Johnson's dismissive attitude toward the media and his ad hominem attack on Seminar founder Robert Funk lurk three serious questions for readers familiar with the work of Seminar participants, including Funk, John Dominic Crossan, and Burton Mack. The first concerns the place of scholarly debate on issues of public interest; the second, the limitations of history and historical method; and the third, the interrelationship of faith, history, and institution. Despite Johnson's protestations, scholarly work is most often a war of words, a battle of interpretations--and whether in classrooms, scholarly journals, or the popular press, scholars (like preachers) know that massaging the medium is more than half the battle. *Steve Schroeder*

Review

"*The Real Jesus* already has marked [Johnson]...as one of the sharpest critics of the field." -- *U.S. News & World Report*

"In the best of the recent flow of books [on Jesus]...Johnson offers a devastating critique of those scholars who prefer their own reconstructed Jesus to the one attested in the New Testament." -- *Newsweek*

"One of the most exhilarating religious books published in this decade." -- *Christianity Today*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dennis Thorpe:

Book is actually written, printed, or outlined for everything. You can realize everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. As it is known to us that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Close to that you can your reading proficiency was fluently. A guide *The Real Jesus: The Misguided Quest for the Historical Jesus and the Truth of the Traditional Gospels* will make you to end up being smarter. You can feel much more confidence if you can know about every thing. But some of you think which open or reading any book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they are often thought like that? Have you looking for best book or suited book with you?

Ashley Parra:

The particular book *The Real Jesus: The Misguided Quest for the Historical Jesus and the Truth of the Traditional Gospels* will bring you to the new experience of reading the book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book you just read, this book very ideal to you. The book *The Real Jesus: The Misguided Quest for the Historical Jesus and the Truth of the Traditional Gospels* is much recommended to you you just read. You can also get the e-book from your official web site, so you can more readily to read the book.

John Valdez:

The book untitled *The Real Jesus: The Misguided Quest for the Historical Jesus and the Truth of the Traditional Gospels* contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains the woman idea with easy means. The language is very clear to see all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was compiled by famous author. The author will take you in the new era of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can read on your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open their official web-site as well as order it. Have a nice examine.

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