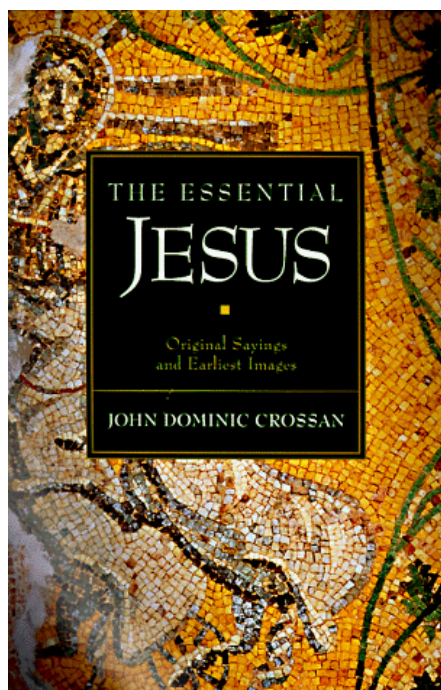




The Essential Jesus: Original Sayings and Earliest Images

John Dominic Crossan

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In this volume of freshly translated original sayings and beautifully reproduced illustrations, preeminent biblical scholar John Dominic Crossan presents a stunning portrait of the Jesus readers might have encountered in early first-century Galilee.

The Essential Jesus: Original Sayings and Earliest Images Details

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Yenny says

Buku yang berat, bukan cuma karena isinya tapi juga karena bahasa Inggrisnya banyak yang tidak saya mengerti, jadi terpaksa deh bacanya sambil bolak-balik buka kamus :)

Zane Akers says

My main beef with this book was the way it was presented. it has a thorough introduction, then it has an array of Jesus's sayings which scholars agree are most authentic, each alone on its page like a haiku. Occasionally a pre-constantine art image of Jesus is included among the sayings. Then, there are the end notes for the sayings, each one a solid paragraph, and finally discussions of the symbolism of the art. i had to keep two bookmarks in the book to navigate this annoyingly hypertextual format. why couldn't it have been saying on the left, interpretation on the right, and then another section with art on the left, interpretation on the right? It would have required a little more paper to print, but I think it would've boosted comprehension immensely, especially since this is a book that challenges our assumptions of the context of Jesus's teachings. Beyond that, the content of the book taken as a whole is very good. Crossan is up front about the fact that he may have over translated to counterbalance received understandings, and the language is spare and gruffly beautiful. A few of the images don't look like anything, and a few seem to be blowups of low-rez jpgs, but with 1700-1800 year old documents, sometimes that's the closest even bigwig scholars can get.

PopMythology.com says

sheds interesting light on the sayings of Jesus, especially how politically charged his teachings actually were.

M says

This is Crossan's offering of what he thought to be the legitimate sayings of Jesus. I did not like how the book was formatted. Explanations of the sayings were in a separate section forcing you to go back and forth. As for the content, I think Crossan goes too far in stripping Jesus of his theological and metaphysical underpinnings. Crossan keeps turning Jesus simply into a "Rabbinical Karl Marx" type figure; which I sincerely doubt.

Jeff says

This is a brief summary of the conclusions of Crossan's life-time of study and research into the life, teachings and ministry of Jesus from a historian's perspective. He provides original translations of the sayings that he considers to be most certain based upon the historical evidence. He also provides a sampling of early Christian depictions of Jesus' ministry, mostly from pre-Constantinian art from the late 3rd Century.

Surprisingly, depictions of the crucified Jesus were almost unheard of until after Constantine's revolution. The most common early depictions of Jesus are of him sharing meals and healing. This corresponds well with the most reliable descriptions of Jesus' ministry as one of healing and of sharing.

Gerry Kelly says

Who said what? Did Jesus actually say what is attributed to him. A good beginners guide to what jesus said in the new testament.

Erik Graff says

This slight book concludes Crossan's Jesus trilogy with a series of aphorisms, parables and pre-Constantinian artworks he believes attributable to the early movement. The image he draws of Jesus thereby is that of a utopian social-revolutionary acting at the grassroots, what he calls a 'sapiential eschatologist' as opposed to an 'apocalyptic' one--in other words, god won't miraculously inaugurate what he calls 'the kingdom'. We, however, can. Right here. Right now. It's a comforting image to secular progressives like myself. No superstitious credulity required, but the utopian vision and the preferential option for the poor maintained. Quite a boon to the liberal clergy and, one presumes, a way to retain one's faith. Further, it is plausible, Crossan knowing his stuff and the quest for the historical Jesus being, as ever, endless.

Jason says

Ironically inessential.

John Dominic Crossan re-interprets quotes attributed to Jesus from the five gospels, including the Gospel of Thomas, and imagery from the early Christian church (pre-Constantine.)

Crossan emphasizes Jesus's radical egalitarianism, often finding economic interpretations to familiar parables and interpretations. Consequently, he sometimes downplays Jesus's apocalyptic tendencies.

"The Essential Jesus" might help you look at some of Jesus's parables in a different light. However, there are much better books available about viewing Jesus from a historical perspective -- some of which are written by Crossan himself.

Cara says

Interesting to see quotes from the historical Jesus. The commentary was useful as well, but I would have preferred it be nearer each quote and not ll compied at the end.

ShareStories says

The Essential Jesus by John Dominic Crossan takes what he believes are sayings by the so-called "historical Jesus" and interprets them in light of Jesus' mission to bring the Kingdom of God on earth.

He translates key bible verses reflecting this opinion and sheds new light on some confusing and somewhat routine verses of scripture. His translations are fresh, eye opening and very poetic.

For example, Matthew 5:13, normally translated along the lines of "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?" It is a verse that I could never make complete sense of as it stands.

Crossan translates it thusly: "What if those who are salt, must themselves be seasoned?" In other words, "What if those who are supposed to have all the answers and wisdom, need answers themselves?"

It is easy to see, after reading this book, why Jesus was executed. His teachings were not all about nebulous good feelings for all, but about how the current power structure was not living up to its purported level of insight and how the only people truly blameless in a corrupt society were the truly destitute (as opposed to "the [mere:] poor").

Crossan translates the famous verse from the Sermon on the Mount (Luke 6:20) as

Only the destitute

are innocent;

the implication being that only those with **absolutely nothing** have not participated in any way in the corrupt power structures of society.

Much food for thought in this short and easy to read book.

Chris says

I didn't read the endflaps of the book so when I began to read this book - so when I expected a story of Jesus life - I was surprised by the learned things that were in the book. So I did learn a few new things but they weren't essential to what I really wanted to learn about Jesus. the book is more about man's interpretation of Jesus and early Christians.

Bo Gordy-Stith says

Interesting take on Jesus sayings - in the spirit of the Jesus Project.

Will Hambric says

I'm keeping this one. A new translation of his most famous sayings, with analysis, especially of the parables
