

Preface

What I hope to do in this book is to sketch the fundamental features of an interpretation of Jesus. It's my belief that the way to understand Jesus and believe in him, should correspond to the way we understand ourselves, so that faith in Jesus enriches and vitalizes our life.

This book was not written to resolve academic issues. It aims to bridge the chasm that exists between theology on the one hand, and believers' convictions and concrete needs on the other.

I would be delighted if this book helped to illuminate in some way the face of Jesus that each person imagines, and if it highlighted those features that make Christ more deserving than ever of being known, loved and followed.

The entire book, down to the last line, has been studied, meditated and written in the context of the faith of the Church and of tradition, but at the same time open to a contemporary vision of the human person and of Christ, in dialogue with those who have preceded us in the faith, and with those who will come after us.

I have written the book so as to make it accessible to anyone interested in the topic. The chapters have been ordered and written in such a way that the reader can recognize Jesus' own internal growth as well as his or her own, the core of Jesus' message and the transformation that it calls forth in our lives.

I have tried to avoid using too many technical terms and Latin texts, although at times it has been unavoidable. The Glossary gives definitions of a number of technical terms and historical information that the reader may find useful.

Before concluding, I wish to express my thanks to all those who have shared with me their friendship, support, collaboration and hard work, especially Luis Armando Aguilar Sahagún and Federico Portas Lagar, and my fellow Jesuits and revisors Luis González Cosío Elcoro, S.J. and Luis Sánchez Villaseñor, S.J.

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