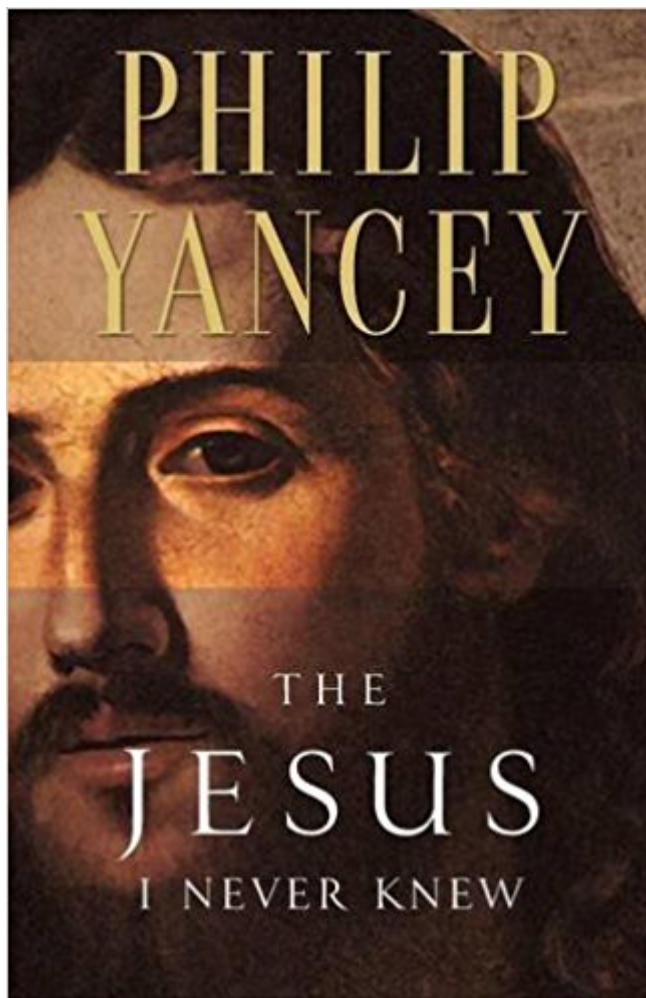


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# The Jesus I Never Knew



## Synopsis

“There is no writer in the evangelical world that I admire and appreciate more.” • Billy Graham  
Philip Yancey helps reveal what two thousand years of history covered up. What happens when a respected Christian journalist decides to put his preconceptions aside and take a long look at the Jesus described in the Gospels? How does the Jesus of the New Testament compare to the new, rediscovered Jesus—or even the Jesus we think we know so well? Philip Yancey offers a new and different perspective on the life of Christ and his work—his teachings, his miracles, his death and resurrection—and ultimately, who he was and why he came. From the manger in Bethlehem to the cross in Jerusalem, Yancey presents a complex character who generates questions as well as answers; a disturbing and exhilarating Jesus who wants to radically transform your life and stretch your faith. The Jesus I Never Knew uncovers a Jesus who is brilliant, creative, challenging, fearless, compassionate, unpredictable, and ultimately satisfying. “No one who meets Jesus ever stays the same,” says Yancey. “Jesus has rocked my own preconceptions and has made me ask hard questions about why those of us who bear his name don’t do a better job of following him.”

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An old adage says, "God created man in His own image and man has been returning the favor ever since." Philip Yancey realized that despite a lifetime attending Sunday school topped off by a Bible

college education, he really had no idea who Jesus was. In fact, he found himself further and further removed from the person of Jesus, distracted instead by flannel-graph figures and intellectual inspection. He determined to use his journalistic talents to approach Jesus, in the context of time, within the framework of history. In *The Jesus I Never Knew*, Yancey explores the life of Jesus, as he explains, "'from below,' to grasp as best I can what it must have been like to observe in person the extraordinary events unfolding in Galilee and Judea" as Jesus traveled and taught. Yancey examines three fundamental questions: who Jesus was, why he came, and what he left behind. Step by step, scene by scene, Yancey probes the culture into which Jesus was born and grew to adulthood; his character and mission; his teachings and miracles; his legacy--not just as history has told it, but as he himself intended it to be. Yancey is not alone in his examination of the "real" Jesus. Publishing today is replete with writers committed to setting the story "straight," joining countless others who, over the past 2,000 years, have determined to discover the truth about Jesus. But where others would deconstruct and discount, Yancey disarms and discloses. We become colleagues with him as he examines the accounts of the life of Jesus. And among the things that we discover is that Jesus himself leaves us few options: either he was who he said he was or he was nuts. Philip Yancey was awarded the Gold Medallion Christian Book of the Year award for this book in 1996 by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association. It's not the first, nor the last, award Yancey has won for his writing. But the writing is not necessarily the great gift of this book. Yancey allows the reader to discover, along with him, *The Jesus I Never Knew*. --Patricia Klein --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Andrew Lloyd Webber cast him as a rock-n-roll rebel in the musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*, many Christians see him as a handsome European-looking man, and social justice groups place him next to Ghandi in his defense of the downtrodden. But, says Philip Yancey, the real Jesus would have left most people scratching their heads along with the disciples and asking, "Who is this guy?" This is exactly the question Yancey asks in his new book *The Jesus I Never Knew*. Yancey's search for the real Jesus collides with the calm, cool, collected, and "loving hippie" notions of Jesus he saw in modern American culture. Instead, he finds a Galilean Jew born into apparent scandal making the most daring of claims: that he is the Way, the Truth, and the Light. *The Jesus I Never Knew* developed out of a class Yancey led at LaSalle Street Church in Chicago, but finding the real Jesus has been Yancey's passion since childhood. Yancey saw Him as a cardboard cut-out in Sunday School and a "cosmic Christ" in Bible college. Today he sees a world that marks its calendar around Jesus' birth and uses His name to intensify a curse. (Wouldn't it be odd to center a calendar around

Napoleon's birth or to scream "Thomas Jefferson" in a shocking situation?). "And yet," says Yancey, "I am not writing a book about Jesus because he is a great man who changed history. I am not tempted to write about Julius Caesar or the Chinese emperor who built the great wall. I am drawn to Jesus, irresistibly, because he has positioned himself at the dividing point of life-my life." The Jesus I Never Knew looks at who Jesus was, why he came, and what he left behind. More than historical speculation or doctrinal recitation, Yancey asks the questions out of a personal desire to truly know Jesus. "The Jesus I Knew has to be the greatest book I've read on the subject." Mark O. Hatfield, U.S. Senator, Oregon --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

If you're going to read one book about Jesus, make it the Bible. If you're going to read two, this is my suggestion for the second. A serious attempt to dig into the person of Jesus, both divine and historical, working from the Biblical stories up rather than from our current theology down, Yancey's book tackles everything from Jesus' Jewish roots to the Beatitudes ("lucky are the unlucky"), citing Christian fiction, Christian scholars, and secular historians, but always bringing it back to the Biblical foundation of Christianity. Well worth it for Christians wanting to deepen their relationship and understanding of Jesus, and I suspect helpful for outsiders looking for an interpretation whose only agenda is, "Who is this man, really?"

This exploration of the life of Christ in the Gospels is thoughtful and sometimes startling. It is well written and provocative and engaging, definitely worth the time spent.

I read this book at a point when I was really struggling with my faith: believing it, living it, and owning it. Yancy's writing style, which invites questions, was a really safe place for me to go during that time. It allowed me to be honest about both my faith and my speculation. So the first thing I appreciate about the book is it's honest, straight-forward exploration of Jesus' life. Secondly, I just thought that Yancy brought up a ton of ideas/points that I had never thought of. I really enjoyed this book, and in many ways I feel that it saved my faith, because it helped me really grow and own my faith.

Philip Yancey starts by describing the versions of Jesus he knew when he was growing up, and the rest of the book describing the versions (well, aspects) of Jesus that he found in the Bible during years of study. It's a fascinating book, and it's great for anyone who wants to know Jesus better--especially since it points the reader to the Bible. There's no off-the-wall

theology here, just good gospel truth presented in a well-written, down-to-earth, interesting way. The book is full of tidbits that reveal how much research and hard work Mr. Yancey put into the book--details about Jesus from history (and from modern movies about him), how different people or cultures view Jesus, quotes about Jesus, and much, much more. I worked through the book a little every day for a few weeks, and I'm glad I did. In the end, of course, the important thing is knowing Jesus, no matter how you see him. Then you can spend eternity getting to know him better.

I love Mr Yancey's viewpoint. I enjoy how I am asked to look from a different perspective. I like being challenged and I thank Mr Yancey for challenging me. I liked this book as I am sure you will as well!! Enjoy!!!

Philip Yancey is one of my favorite authors - this is the 2nd time I read this book (now on my kindle) and found it incredibly interesting, informative and thought provoking.

A very concise, and insightful, look at the character of Jesus, based primarily on the four Gospels (as opposed to the epistles, etc). Like Jesus himself, the book takes aim at subsequent church dogma and tradition, showing where it is, and often is not, on track with how he is shown to be in the gospels themselves. Very interesting book, a fast, and fascinating, read. I came away much better for it, I think. Highly recommend this.

Very good read even for a seasoned disciple. As we say in Igbo language Jesus bu Amaka a Acha AmaTrans. The more you know him, the more you want to know him

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