

THE GOOD NEWS STORY OF

the Alpha and

Ω, X.

Another Anonymish Gospel, this time 'dangerously' Luke-ish.¹

¹ pretty nearly without footnotes edition.

Hello, my most pure God-Lovers, you detectives of the Divine - I, too, have done my homework; what follows is the most excellent and orderly gospel I could conjure, having gathered in an investigation accounts handed down from those eyewitnesses fortunate enough to have hung out with Jesus for a few years - and some Others too, of course. These findings have been certified personally by anciently-educated agents of Abrahamic descent (though in the interest of full disclosure, this is true for a fair number of Gentiles as well. A Gospel-ish disclaimer: 'This is a work of fiction designed, developed and published by a multicultural and gender-diverse team from a wide range of ethnic, philosophical, and religious backgrounds.'²).

I'm grateful for those who've gone before me in articulating this subversively Good News, and to be fair, I couldn't have written this beautiful book without their help. I'd like to especially thank: Mark, Q, and of course *All the Single Ladies* we've heard from - we'll call them 'L' - (though I skipped over your gender in my genealogy, *Ladies*, we wouldn't even *be here* without you).

Case in point - Jesus wouldn't be here, to be clear, without his mother Mary. Whether or not Joe was of tremendous import is now a matter of some debate, but Mary was the favoured³ mother of God. When she found this out (the messenger Gabriel blabbed), she sang a song - and then *Mary Had a Little Lamb*. Good tidings of great cheer were had for all people. Really - it was a great song, and the shepherds guarding their flocks by night absolutely LOVED it. It's all about Mary's Lamb, after all. *'Tis the point of the tune.*

² *Hitman 2*, Xbox One, IO Interactive A/S, 2019.

³ an *almost* cryptic (foot)note (just *ONE* more!) : Note the British spelling; another example of the author's own style-switching in the text (potentially overlooked in an oral presentation, and); much less impressive with a footnote *ironically pointing out* the supposedly subtle nods to the text whilst incorporating knowledge gained from a long list of course resources - there are, of course, many of these references, relying most heavily on Burridge, but using others as well (e.g., feel free to count run on sentences with complex or confusing grammatical structures and linguistic choices, reflecting Lukan style, according to additional class resources such as *Women's Bible Commentary*. How many of these one picks up is, I suppose, in the eye of the Beholder...at any rate, we digress - *Tallyho! Along with the (henceforth) footnote-less paper! And away we go!*

<plods along methodically like an ox>

And behold, Quirinius took a census and there was no room at the inn, but it was around that time that the prophecies began (To be fair, they'd begun well before 'tween-age Jesus accompanied his folks in their annual Journey to Jerusalem, and in honing the self-taught art of *slipping away* in his own rite, Jesus spent an unapproved extra three days teaching teachers in the Temple). JC was MIA, yet just in his father's house. *Talk about foreshadowing.*

Some twenty years later, his cousin John baptized him - this son of Adam, the *Son of God* - and his *non-Joseph* Father declared from heaven he 'was pleased,' which was odd. The family dynamics alone are, well, quite. a. *Lot*. ...certainly something through which we'd need to plod, starting first with *his* parents, in the Temple of God.

So Jesus called his disciples, I've named them one by one, and when he taught them how to count the cost, it was not just for fun. His Galilean discipleship training was vigorous - like a Boot Camp for better living - and this joy-filled Jesus seemed focused on teaching, on miracles, and just...*giving*.

Even to Gentiles. No. <scribbles that out and edits to,> *Especially* to Gentiles.

All the *goyim*.

Jesus talked A LOT - like, fifty percent of the time, and though *I don't know* if he turned water to wine (all of those eyewitness sources were inebriated and therefore unreliable and not included in this testimony), he *most certainly* could calm down a storm. Nearly everywhere he went, people came to see and hear him with joyous expectation, except in his hometown - still no room in *that* inn (though this is not Bethlehem, not anymore). Apparently prophets aren't much accepted in the place of their origin. Jesus carried a wide and heavy load - though his

yoke is easy and his burden be light - and graciously bore the burdens of the poor and oppressed, the lost and unacceptable, women, and non-Jews. Including Samaritans.

Good ones are the key.

When asked when the kingdom of God was coming, Jesus said it was 'in your midst' - which, along with God's power (more of that in the sequel!), will provide *quite* a twist! -

He redeemed *yet another* tax collector (Jesus had a knack for that), this one named Zaccheus, and had the whole town gathered at the gate while proclaiming him too to be a son of Abraham, restored and made *pure*. He taught us to pray - and there's so very much more - he was prolific in parable.

Jesus walked to Jerusalem, and entered as a 'king' - he pointed out the widow who'd been doing her thing. He taught the Twelve a lesson I'll never forget - juxtaposing the scribes with this woman and yet... claiming she'd given *more* (though she gave so much less?) - with her matted up hair and her weathered, torn dress (I think his point was not her, but the Temple itself - which robs you of much more than money, much more than your wealth - this System takes *every-thing-that- you've-got*, and it keeps wanting more until what's left is rot; perhaps *that's why* he'd showed the money-changers the door - *Jesus cared for the poor* - at least, that's what I got).

Jesus said a lot about money, so who knows.

What we *do* know from all our investigative sources (confirmed through a Fully Anonymous Source in Israeli intelligence), is that coming back into the city was quite an ordeal, and if it weren't for the '*power of God*' that permeated the presence of Jesus, it is likely the chief

priests, scribes and elders would've escalated the situation much more quickly than they had - no more drive-by-dining hospitality for weary travelers on their journey to the holy city, no more *Theology w/ Tanins* Torah-sparring sessions using sacred texts, either (though this was bound to happen, as Jesus had been winning Scroll Drills since he was a kid). More meals with Mary.

And lo, Jesus set his face forward and followed through with his own incarnation-al experience of God, which allowed the rest of us to experience God *through* him.

It was a tough week, but had a *dazzling* finish. And it's a finish that isn't quite done - these Twelve apostles have more Acts in the sequel (well, twelve - minus one).

<cue Star Wars theme music>

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