

## What He Said

In Thomas Jefferson's later years he embarked on a secret project that not even his immediate family knew about until after his death. The project was simple in theory: determine what Jesus said. Not what Paul said. Not what's in the book of Revelation. Not Old Testament prophecies. Not even what the disciples said. Just what Jesus himself said. It turned out to be much more difficult than TJ anticipated, and he was never able to finish it. But it was a very good idea. After all, is there anything more important in Christianity than the words Jesus spoke?

What I have found is that Christianity was conceived and constructed from layers of lies. Early Christians couldn't accept the fact that Jesus ended with Mark 16:8. So, they created their own Jesus. It has been successfully marketed to gullible, foolish people for over 2000 years.

How could they fool so many people so completely for so long? Because Christians, for the most part, do not read the Bible for themselves. They depend on what others (particularly their parents, pastor, or priest) tell them about what the Bible says. And what they tell them is not what the Bible really says at all.

Sure, they have Bible study groups and Sunday School lessons. But those simply reinforce the Christian propaganda. Virtually nobody tries to independently study the Bible and understand what it really says. When they do read it, they see only what they already think they know it says. Reinforcement is the only reason for reading the Bible for them. They read sections at a time, and they see what they want to see, what they've been told, not what's written.

To truly understand what the Bible says, one must abandon that *devotional* approach and adopt the *critical-historical approach* to understanding the Bible. Free your mind as much as possible from the indoctrination and propaganda that the Christian community plants there. Read it as though you've never heard anything about it before. And don't just

read one book at a time. Compare what the different synoptic gospels say about the same event. Compare and contrast them. Forget what you've been told earlier. Just let Jesus himself speak to you. Pay close attention to exactly what he says and does, and what he doesn't say or do.

That's what I have done. That's why I now understand that Jesus, if he existed at all, was merely a failed Jewish apocalyptic prophet. He is not the savior of the world. He didn't come to earth to save us from our sins. The whole idea of original sin is a fairy tale. The whole idea of the resurrection is a hoax. Christianity is a fraud. All you need to do to prove that to yourself is read what Jesus himself said. Surely you consider him a reliable source.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of Christians will not be able or willing to give up their delusions. They would rather live a comfortable lie than accept the painful truth. One true thing Christians say is that the truth shall set you free. Yes it will, if you let it. But Christianity is not freedom. Christians don't want to be free, and the last thing Christian leaders want is for you to be free.