

Just Thinking Apologetics #11

One of the last options to examine concerning the person of Jesus involves Jesus as a myth or legend that developed later in history. This popular skeptical view states that Jesus was a later invention of those who wrote the New Testament. Accordingly, those who affirm this view see the authors of the New Testament or early Christians as presenting an image of Jesus that is not historically accurate. They call into question the miracles of Jesus along with belief in his deity (belief that Jesus was God).

One of the more outspoken groups affirming the legendary approach is the Jesus Seminar. The Jesus Seminar claims that they have discovered the real Jesus. The real Jesus according to the Seminar ranges from a political revolutionary to a feminist, but he is always a naturalistic Jesus. A naturalistic Jesus means that he was no different from any other man who ever lived.

The Jesus Seminar claims that only 18 percent of the sayings of Jesus can possibly be true, and of the 18 percent only 2 percent can be affirmed as authentic. Has the Jesus Seminar discovered the real Jesus? Not all scholars accept the Jesus Seminar's findings. One such scholar Dr. Gregory Boyd writes, "The Jesus Seminar represents an extremely small number or radical-fringe scholars who are on the far, far left wing of New Testament thinking." We will look at a series of reasons over the coming weeks why the Jesus Seminar and others are wrong in considering Jesus to be nothing more than a grand legend.