



Telling Tales about Jesus: An Introduction to the New Testament Gospels

By Warren Carter

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What are the Gospels and what does it mean to read them? Warren Carter leads the beginning student in an inductive exploration of the New Testament Gospels, asking about their genre, the view that they were written by eyewitnesses, the early church traditions about them, and how they employ Hellenistic biography. He then examines the distinctive voice of each Gospel, describing the “tale about Jesus” each writer tells, then presenting likely views regarding the circumstances in which they were written, giving particular attention to often overlooked aspects of the Roman imperial setting. A sociohistorical approach suggests that Mark addressed difficult circumstances in imperial Rome; redaction criticism shows that Matthew edited traditions to help define identity in competition with synagogue communities in response to a fresh assertion of Roman power; a literary-thematic approach shows that Luke offers assurance in a context of uncertainty; an intertextual approach shows how John used Wisdom traditions to present Jesus as the definitive revealer of God’s presence to answer an ancient quest for divine knowledge. A concluding chapter addresses how the Gospels inform and shape our understanding of Jesus of Nazareth. Maps, images, sidebars, and questions for reflection add value to this student-friendly text.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Carter's *Telling Tales about Jesus* is a gift to teachers of the New Testament and the Gospels in particular. Bringing together careful exegesis, crisp writing, and a keen ability to illuminate the imperial, theological, and historical contexts of the early followers of Jesus, Carter introduces students not just to the Gospel texts but to the vibrant contexts from which they emerged. But Carter's book is not just retrospective. It prepares students to think deeply about the pressing questions that might drive communities today to turn to these ancient texts for inspiration and solace, guidance and hope. In the end, Carter makes a critical move through and beyond the typical content of introductions: genre, authorship, and provenance. He further invites students to imagine the living communities that first read the Gospel. In doing so, he invites those same students to see both the vibrancy of these ancient texts as well as the contemporary communities that still turn to them." --Eric D. Barreto, Luther Seminary

"In *Telling Tales about Jesus*, Warren Carter has written a new textbook on the Gospels that will be an excellent addition to the New Testament professor's bookshelf. Particularly helpful is his insightful consideration of the sociocultural and historical setting of the Roman Empire throughout the book and in relation to each Gospel individually. Carter's work offers the student a conversational writing style, unique interpretative lenses, two full chapters on each Gospel, and helpful review and reflection questions along the way." --Amanda C. Miller, Belmont University

"There is something so fresh in this clear introduction to the Gospels. It is more than the concise account of each of the four tales themselves, which are summarized with sensitivity to each evangelist's literary artistry and theological interests. Carter explores the *human context* of these tales, from the living conditions in first-century Rome to the complex negotiations of faith, politics, and community in the wake of the catastrophic loss of Jerusalem in 70 CE. With ample illustrations from texts and archaeology, he surfaces the political concerns and existential questions that Jesus was perceived to answer, prompting contemporary readers to consider the relevance of these ancient tales to our own pressing issues, from social inequality to interreligious tension and ecological threat. Judiciously chosen topics frame the separate Gospel treatments, and user-friendly features like sidebars, images, reflection questions, and a glossary make this an excellent and reliable resource for beginning Gospel courses." --Catherine M. Murphy, Santa Clara University

About the Author

Warren Carter is professor of New Testament at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas, and the author of numerous books in New Testament studies.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Arthur Haase:

This *Telling Tales about Jesus: An Introduction to the New Testament Gospels* are usually reliable for you who want to be considered a successful person, why. The main reason of this *Telling Tales about Jesus: An Introduction to the New Testament Gospels* can be one of several great books you must have will be giving you more than just simple examining food but feed you actually with information that probably will shock

your before knowledge. This book is definitely handy, you can bring it almost everywhere and whenever your conditions throughout the e-book and printed kinds. Beside that this Telling Tales about Jesus: An Introduction to the New Testament Gospels forcing you to have an enormous of experience such as rich vocabulary, giving you trial of critical thinking that we realize it useful in your day activity. So , let's have it and revel in reading.

Mildred Smith:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read the book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent all day every day to reading a publication. The book Telling Tales about Jesus: An Introduction to the New Testament Gospels it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book possesses high quality.

Jennifer Garrison:

Telling Tales about Jesus: An Introduction to the New Testament Gospels can be one of your basic books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to put every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing Telling Tales about Jesus: An Introduction to the New Testament Gospels yet doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource info that maybe you can be one among it. This great information can certainly drawn you into completely new stage of crucial imagining.

Conrad Degregorio:

This Telling Tales about Jesus: An Introduction to the New Testament Gospels is great guide for you because the content that is certainly full of information for you who have always deal with world and also have to make decision every minute. This specific book reveal it info accurately using great coordinate word or we can say no rambling sentences within it. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole information in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but challenging core information with wonderful delivering sentences. Having Telling Tales about Jesus: An Introduction to the New Testament Gospels in your hand like obtaining the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no publication that offer you world in ten or fifteen tiny right but this book already do that. So , this really is good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt that?

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