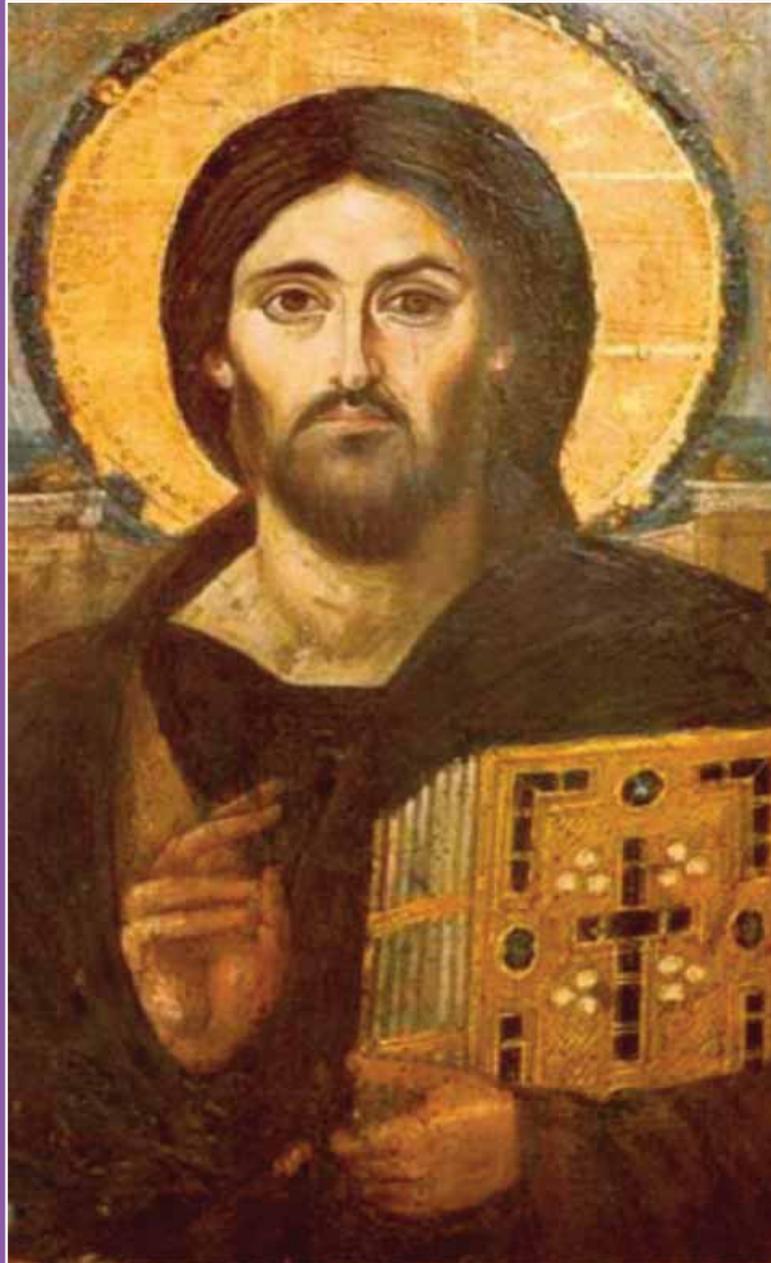


# Jesus, the Observant Jew

## What He Learned and What He Taught



**The Rev. John J. Fetterman**

**The Adult Forum • Sunday, March 9, 2014 at 10 a.m.**  
**Calvary Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

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## What He Learned and What He Taught

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### 1. God's Tribe – The meaning of Abraham and Moses

- A. The myths of Genesis express a cosmology and a calling.
- B. The myths of Exodus express the formation of God's tribe.
- C. These mythologies are critical to the formation of Jesus and us

### 2. Living by the Law of Moses (Leviticus and Deuteronomy)

- A. Remembrance ritual in both Passover and the Eucharist.
- B. "Marked as one of God's own" – both Jews and baptized.

### 3. Jesus of Nazareth - (INRI)-The sign on the cross.

- A. He worked; he studied the OT; he observed the Jewish Law.
- B. He was a poor boy from a small town and very wise.
- C. His family: Did he have brothers and sisters? Loaded question.

### 4. Jesus the teacher (Rabbi).

- A. "Of old it was said to you; but now I say..."
- B. The revelation, the expression of it, the truth of it.
- C. Distinctive positions re: disease, poverty, and women, ritual sacrifice, sin, power, wealth.
- D. Commonly held positions re: end times, cosmology, gentiles.
- E. This life, an afterlife, the fullness of life.

### 5. The value of his human experience

- A. He was like us in every way except for sin.
- B. He learned by experience: social relationships, commitment, failure, fear, hope, prayer.

### 6. Let's Talk: What are your thoughts about any one of the following Jesus statements?

- A. "Let the little children come..."
- B. "Render to Caesar..."
- C. "Fear not..."



*Front cover*: Christos Pantocrator (The Creator of All Things).

*This page*: Christ as the Good Shepherd.

*Back page*: Early depiction of the Crucifixion. Note that Christ is naked (historically accurate)

# The Temple in Jerusalem

## Its Place in History

### 1. Significance of the Temple

- A. The visible symbol of the invisible God.
- B. The distinctive center of Israelite national life. It's unique centrality makes it different from every "center" of authority or identity that we now have in any form of governance in either church or state.

### 2. Thumbnail History – Commonly used descriptors are Temples I, and II.

#### A. Temple I

- Built by Solomon (970-931 BCE)
- Despite disasters, the Temple Mt. (Mt. Zion) continued to symbolize God's relationship with his people and was the only place where the prescribed sacrifices could be offered.
- Construction described in 1 Kgs. 6-8, 2 Chron. 2-4, Ez. 40-46
- Destroyed by the Babylonians (Nebuchadnezzar) in 586 BCE.
  - The Babylonian Captivity: 586-538 BC (by decree of Cyrus, the Great, a Persian – aka "a holy pagan" because of this act.)

#### B. Temple II

- Rebuilt (520-515) by Zerubabel, the political officer in Persian province of Jehud (Judah).
- Described in the writings of the prophets Hagai, Ezra, and Nehemiah.
- Enlarged and embellished by Herod, the Great
- Temple and city destroyed by Roman General/Emperor Titus in 70 CE.

### 3. 130 CE Aelia Capitolina: name of the new city constructed by Emperor Publius Aelius Hadrianus, Emperor, on the site of the old city.

- Following a long-standing practice of both Jews and Romans, the conquered land area was plowed under and sewn with salt as punishment.

### 4. 362 CE: Name (Jerusalem) was restored and Temple rebuilt.

### 5. 635 CE: Muslims conquer Jerusalem. Raze temple. Build Dome of the Rock.



Jews do not want any temple rebuilt. Regardless, Muslims occupy the site and the Mosque of the Dome of the Rock is built on a site sacred to them for two reasons:

1) By tradition it is held to be the site where Abraham, the father of both Isaac (Hebrew) and Ishmael (Arab) came to sacrifice Isaac according to God's command.

2) Ishmael is the founder of the Arab race into which Mohammed was born. Tradition holds that Mohammed ascended into the seventh heaven from this spot and returned the very same night.

