



Ehrman, Bart D.

Misquoting Jesus: The Story Behind Who Changed the Bible and Why

New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 2005. Pp. iv + 266. Paper. \$14.95. ISBN 9780060859510.

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Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

New Jersey

Bart Ehrman has offered the world a layman friendly primer on textual criticism with a sensational title and some shaky conclusions. From the title one expects to open this book and find a myriad of examples of where the Biblical authors have inserted words into the mouth of Jesus that were never actually uttered. All those fans of the Jesus Seminar and thier 'Third Quest', will be disappointed with this volume because it doesn't deliver what the title implies.

However, Dr. Ehrman has given us the basics of textual criticism in language that we can understand. He takes the time to define his terms and give examples that make the discipline accessible to all. For that he should be commended. Truth be told, Ehrman doesn't really offer the threat to Evangelicalism that many thought he would with this work and I'd recommend it to any Christian who wishes to wrestle with a few opposing views of their cherished beliefs.

For those interested in more scholarly treatments of the subjects mentioned in this book see Ehrman's:

- *The Orthodox Corruption of Scripture: The Effect of Early Christological Controversies on the Text of the New Testament*
- *Lost Christianities: The Battles for Scripture and the Faiths We Never Knew*
- *Lost Scriptures: Books that Did Not Make It into the New Testament*

For an in depth review of *Misquoting Jesus* see Daniel B. Wallace's "The Gospel According to Bart."¹

Timothy Paul Jones has also written a response entitled: *Misquoting Truth: A Guide to the Fallacies of Bart Ehrman's "Misquoting Jesus."*

¹ http://www.bible.org/page.php?page_id=4000