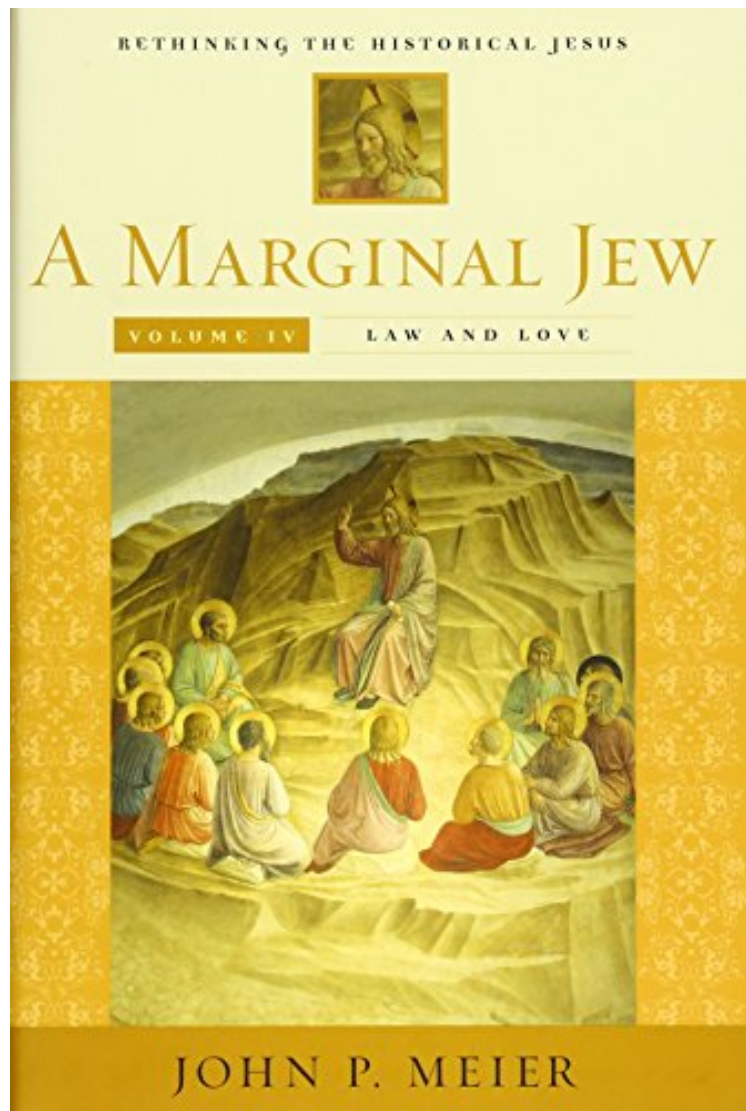


(Download pdf) A Marginal Jew: Rethinking the Historical Jesus, Volume IV: Law and Love (The Anchor Yale Bible Reference Library) (v. 4)

A Marginal Jew: Rethinking the Historical Jesus, Volume IV: Law and Love (The Anchor Yale Bible Reference Library) (v. 4)

John P. Meier

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John P. Meier : A Marginal Jew: Rethinking the Historical Jesus, Volume IV: Law and Love (The Anchor Yale Bible Reference Library) (v. 4) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Marginal Jew: Rethinking the Historical Jesus, Volume IV: Law and Love (The Anchor Yale Bible Reference Library) (v. 4):

30 of 30 people found the following review helpful. How the historical Jesus relates to us
By Patrick C. Mowery
This is the 4th of a projected 5-volume series investigating who Jesus was and how he was perceived as he walked this earth some 2000 years ago. This volume provides an exhaustive evaluation of what is known currently about the Mosaic Law and Judaism in the 1st century of the Christian era, and how well Jesus followed that law. Like the previous volumes, Fr. Meier provides exhaustive scholarship. The footnotes are as long and fact-filled as the main text. Thus, reading is not for the beginner or faint-of-heart. But for those of us who are avid students of christology, it is an invaluable source of material for understanding the historic Jesus, and the relevance of this understanding to modern problems facing us. The 5th (and last??) volume is eagerly awaited.
15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. A Work of Originality and Broad Scholarship
By Tom Manteuffel
John Meier has done it again. Coupling exhaustive textual analysis with broad knowledge of extra-Biblical contemporaneous sources, he shines important new light on the relationship of Jesus to the halakah or Jewish law of his day. This is important to understanding the materials within which Jesus engaged in arguments with scribes, Pharisees, elders and others. This is a work of originality, and thus worth the five stars. That said, there are some basic questions I have after reading this one through. Meier, on the basis of textual analysis and contrast with extra-biblical source materials, distinguishes between what he concludes is the genuine teaching of the historical Jesus (the prohibition on divorce, the prohibition on oaths, the linking of passages from the OT into the 'first' and 'second' commandments (love God, love neighbor) in Mark, the concise statement 'love your enemies' in Q) and what he concludes are later Christian accretions (the 'love one another' commandment in John, the Golden Rule). He emphasizes that the historical Jesus engaged in Halakic disputes, because that is what other contemporaneous sources did (the Dead Sea Scrolls, which were earlier, and the Mishna, which was later, Philo, Josephus, etc). Oddly then, his principal methodological tool for distinguishing real Jesus materials from later Christian accretions, is that of 'discontinuity,' or the absence of a view presented as Jesus' in other sources. To the extent that Jesus' message was in fact the rather uninspiring view that divorce and the making of oaths are prohibited, to that extent is it not fairly necessary to conclude that Jesus was a 'marginal Jew'? But by all means, read this book, if only to dispel the simplistic and all-too-common view that Jesus' message was that the Law has been superseded by the new commandment/covenant to love. Both Jesus and Paul need to be firmly set within the context of their fully observant Judaism.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A worthy continuation of Meier's study
By Customer
While this volume of Meier's study of Jesus' life and teachings can be read on its own, I suspect it is a much more comprehensible work in the context of his earlier volumes. The title is a summary of what is, clearly, a greater study of what it is that the author thinks that we can say with some confidence about Jesus. I recommend alongside it the work of N T Wright as a corrective.

John Meier's previous volumes in the acclaimed series *A Marginal Jew* are founded upon the notion that while solid historical information about Jesus is quite limited, people of different faiths can nevertheless arrive at a consensus on fundamental historical facts of his life. In this eagerly anticipated fourth volume in the series, Meier approaches a fresh topic—the teachings of the historical Jesus concerning Mosaic Law and morality—with the same rigor, thoroughness, accuracy, and insightfulness on display in his earlier works. After correcting misconceptions about Mosaic Law in Jesus' time, this volume addresses the teachings of Jesus on major legal topics like divorce, oaths, the Sabbath, purity rules, and the various love commandments in the Gospels. What emerges from Meier's research is a profile of a complicated first-century Palestinian Jew who, far from seeking to abolish the Law, was deeply engaged in debates about its observance. Only by embracing this portrait of the historical Jesus grappling with questions of the Torah do we avoid the common mistake of constructing Christian moral theology under the guise of studying Jesus and the Law, the author concludes.

John Meier is the most distinguished Roman Catholic biographer of Jesus.
Harold Bloom