

In search of the historical Jesus

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Workshop Outline

There is no uninterrupted, or undisputed, view of Jesus. The earliest records present him through the eyes of others - followers, interpreters and, occasionally, critics – and modern scholarly reconstructions of Jesus vary in their conclusions about the man whom they “find” from their weighing of the evidence.

In our discussion of the historical Jesus we shall focus on Jesus’ teaching and ideas rather than the events of his life. What was he trying to say and achieve? This will bring us into contact with scholarly reconstructions that focus on a Jesus who was steeped in Judaism, shaped by the apocalyptic mood of his day and a successor to a long line of radical religious thinkers and prophets.