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Taking the Gospel to Heart New Book Helps Readers Personalize the Gospel

Ask Tim Fallon why he wrote the book *What Jesus Said and Why it Matters Now*, and he responds with a story. “I was leading a retreat for high school students, helping them prepare to role play the story of Jesus being lost in the temple. The central conflict in the story is that when Mary and Joseph leave Jerusalem, Jesus stays behind without asking permission. One young man captured the essence of the frantic three-day search for Jesus: ‘If I pulled a stunt like that, I’d be grounded for life!’”

“At that moment,” Fallon notes, “he had personalized the story. He had grasped the experience of Jesus and his parents and recognized how his own experience was similar to theirs. That’s why I wrote this book: to help people personalize the stories in the gospels.”

What Jesus Said and Why It Matters Now helps readers to experience the Gospels as powerful stories that reveal how God is touching them. It demonstrates a method readers can use to enter into each Gospel story and make it a vital part of their lives. The book’s approach uses a wide range of contemporary examples to help readers enter into the experience of each Gospel story, recognize God’s presence in their own lives, use the story as a basis for prayer, and live it in their everyday lives.

What Jesus Said and Why It Matters Now contains seven “story chapters.” Each of these chapters focuses on a different Gospel story and demonstrates a method for personalizing it. The story chapters all use the same structure in order to help readers internalize the method for personalizing Gospel stories so they can use that method with other stories in the Scriptures.

The book is appropriate for anyone seeking a deeper experience of the Gospel, but it is ideal for several audiences Fallon focuses on specifically. Participants in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults will find it to be a great resource during the last weeks of their journey to the Easter Vigil. The seven story chapters are the Lenten and Easter Gospels from the A Cycle of the Lectionary they will use in breaking open the word.

The book is also an excellent resource for small group and individual Bible study. Fallon has developed a companion guide for the book that is available at no charge on his website: www.timfallon.com. Teachers, catechists and other ministers will find it helpful in making the Gospel more relevant both in their own lives and in helping others appreciate its meaning.

The book itself is available from St. Anthony Messenger Press, 28 W. Liberty Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202, telephone # 800-488-0488, or from www.amazon.com.

Tim Fallon has served in a variety of ministry positions, including a vicar-level position in spiritual development for the Diocese of Kalamazoo, Michigan. He combines over twenty-five years of experience as a management consultant with directing retreats and conducting workshops on spirituality.

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If you'd like more information about the book or would like to schedule an interview with Tim Fallon, please call Patti Langlois at 231/288-8827 or e-mail: patti@timfallon.com.