

Can we relate to a Jesus who isn't at least a little Anti-Semitic, even just a smidge?

Often, Christians have been anti-semitic ~

We borrow superiority far too easily, Letter of Hebrews
We like to hate on the Pharisees & talk about "the Jews"

We're happiest with Jesus the Coach, CEO or Co-Pilot

Truth is, most of us can't relate to a Jewish Jesus ~

What? Read this one lately? Matt 15:21-28, pg. 670

Sundays of Lent 2010... Mar. 14th

We're walking with Jesus during his years of ministry and public life:



- † Jesus the Teacher, February 21st
- † Jesus the Companion, February 28th
- † Jesus the Healer, March 7th
- † **Jesus the Jew, March 14th**
- † Jesus the Messiah, March 21st

Jesus' Jewishness is not insurmountable...

The ethnicity of Jesus is great lesson for us in several things...

- 1) Being Jewish was central to who Jesus was as the Messiah (next week!), and the Law was always central to witnessing the presence of God... look at the bit just before Matt. 5:17-20!
- 2) It reminds us to honor God's Chosen.
- 3) It reminds us that God works within the reality & the dignity of people's lives. Jesus' being a Jew does not disparage my being a Gentile.
- 4) It should constantly pull and stretch us, not letting us get too complacent about our **following**... again, don't get too comfortable by fitting Jesus into tidy little boxes!

Weekly Grace...

Speaking of ethnicity and localism! This coming Wednesday is St. Patrick's Day! How will you celebrate a day given to a very localized saint? (Hopefully with more than green beer!)

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, and in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

~ from St. Patrick's Breastplate

Jesus as a Jew

Our scripture reading has got to be the least preached part of the Sermon on the Mount in America churches: Matthew 5:17-20, Page 661

Wait a minute... I thought Jesus was a Law busting, de-legalism'alizing, radical reductionist who came to destroy the Jewish Law, religion and way of life! Maybe I was wrong.

A difficult paradox for us today is the **ethnicity** of Jesus, that he was in a people, of an ethnicity, and from God's Chosen People of Israel, while also a universal Savior.

Uh, oh...

Jesus wasn't born in a void, or without a family, a nation or a real place and time.

Jesus was a Jew!

