
Jaroslav Pelikan, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT YALE UNIVERSITY, AUTHOR OF *JESUS THROUGH THE CENTURIES*:

There was a great teacher, and gathered around him was a small group of faithful followers. They listened to his message and were transformed by it. But the message alienated the power structure of his time, which finally put him to death but did not succeed in eradicating his message, which is stronger now than ever. That description would apply equally to Jesus and Socrates. But nobody's ever built a cathedral in honor of Socrates. Socrates called upon people to think straight, but with Jesus there's more than just "teaching," there's a transcendent dimension, beyond the here and now, as a source of hope and meaning.

Cardinal O'Connor:

Even if people just look at him humanistically and say, "He set a marvelous example as a peacemaker and a loving, charitable individual whom anyone could model himself or herself on," that would be good. That's a contribution.

Harvey Cox, PROFESSOR OF RELIGION AND SOCIETY AT HARVARD DIVINITY SCHOOL, AUTHOR OF *FIRE FROM HEAVEN*:

Gandhi said that what he found most attractive about Jesus was that he wasn't just someone who taught it, as many of the Asian sages did. He *did* it, he actually lived it. He loved his neighbors, his enemies. He stayed among the poor. He was an exemplar of his own teaching.

Robert Funk, FOUNDER OF THE JESUS SEMINAR, WHICH EXAMINES THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE GOSPELS:

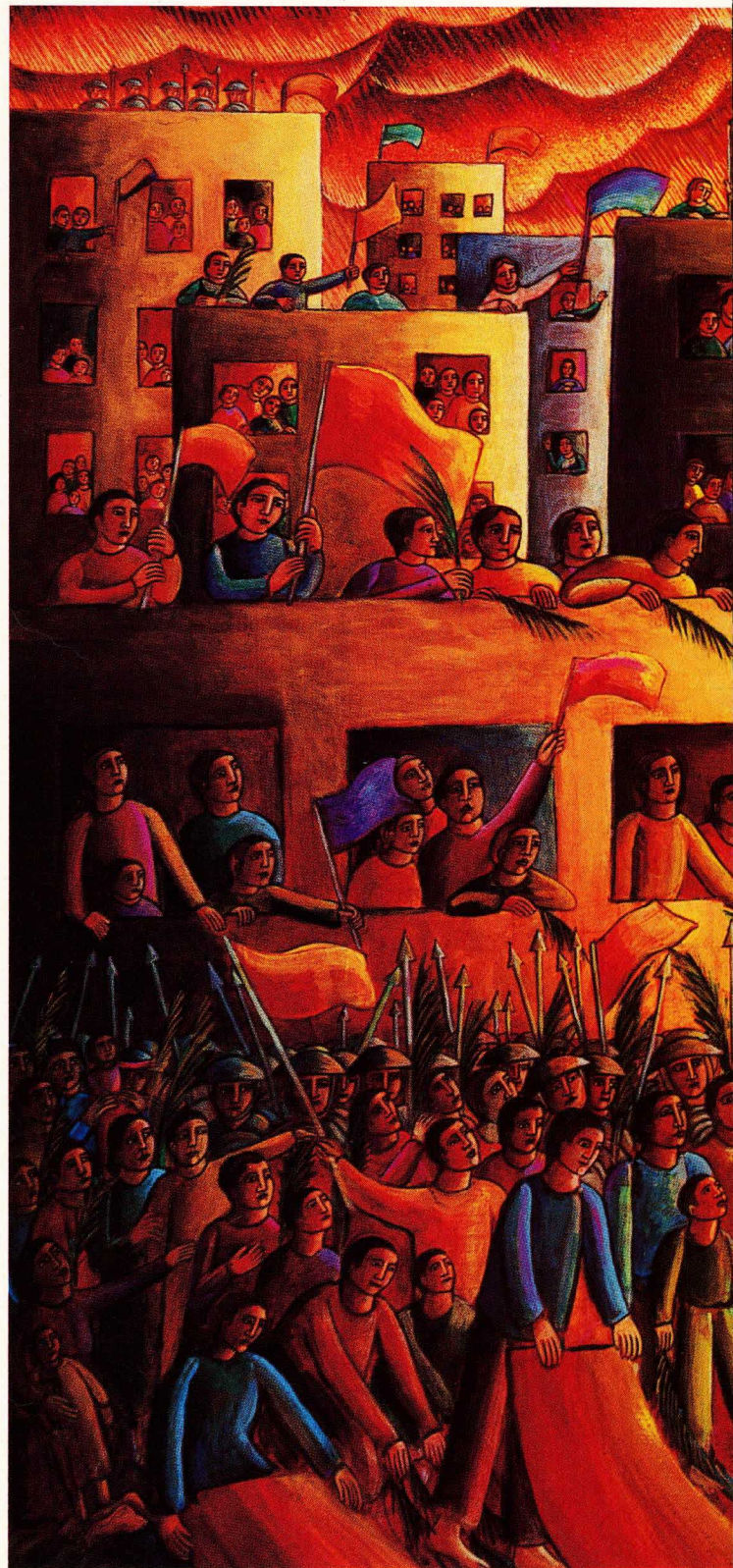
Jesus was a subversive sage. His witticisms tended to undermine the everyday view of things. Jesus taught them: If someone sues you for your coat, give them your shirt as well. In a two-garment society, that would have been funny.

Helmut Koester, PROFESSOR OF NEW TESTAMENT AT HARVARD DIVINITY, AUTHOR OF *ANCIENT CHRISTIAN GOSPELS*:

Jesus' philosophy in the context of its time was . . . no historian wants to use the word "unique," but it was striking. One example: If you lend money to someone, don't ask to get the money back. It's a new philosophy. "Love your enemies." Well, everyone in Rome was saying, "You better hate your enemies." It was a singular philosophy.

Seyyed Hossein Nasr, PROFESSOR OF ISLAMIC STUDIES AT GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY:

Muslims see him as the greatest prophet before the prophet of Islam. He is the prophet of inward spiritual life. ➤➤



What did he **Teach**, and why did he teach it?



Entry Into the City, John August Swanson, 1990

COURTESY OF THE BERESMAN GALLERY, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN