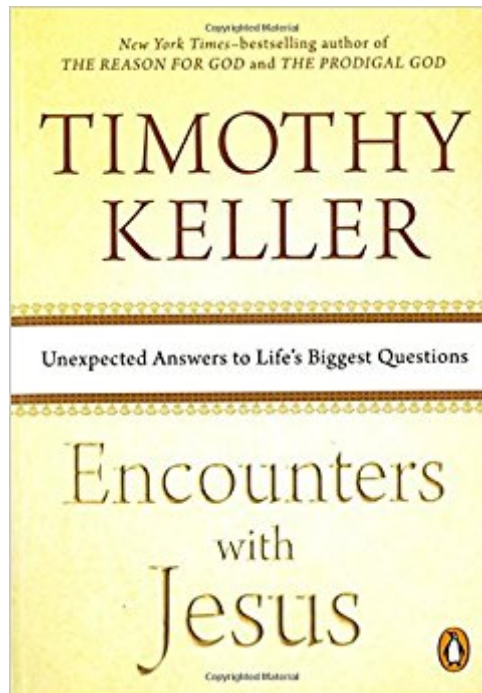




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Encounters With Jesus: Unexpected Answers To Life's Biggest Questions



Synopsis

New York Times's bestselling author of the forthcoming *God's Wisdom for Navigating Life* Timothy Keller explores how people are changed by meeting Jesus personally—and how we can be changed encountering him today. The people who met Jesus Christ in person faced the same big life questions we face today. Like most of us, the answers handed down to them didn't seem to work in the real world. But when they met Jesus, things immediately started to change for them. It seems he not only had the answers—he was the answer. In *Encounters with Jesus*, Timothy Keller shows how the central events and meetings in Jesus's life can change our own lives forever. "Keller's work belongs on the bookshelf of every serious Bible student."

—Examiner.com "Keller has mined the gold from these texts of Scripture, and any Christian is bound to have their minds expanded and hearts stirred." —Graceforsinners.com

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Customer Reviews

Praise for Timothy Keller and *Encounters with Jesus* "Keller's work belongs on the bookshelf of every serious Bible student. It is not a quick read, but, instead should be savored like fine wine, one sip at a time to glean the full impact of his life-changing message." —Examiner.com "Keller has mined the gold from these texts of Scripture, and any Christian is bound to have their minds expanded and hearts stirred, even if they have read these accounts countless times."

—Graceforsinners.com "Tim Keller's ministry in New York City is leading a generation of seekers and skeptics toward belief in God. I thank God for him." —Billy Graham "Unlike most suburban

megachurches, much of Redeemer is remarkably traditional. What is not traditional is Dr. Keller's skill in speaking the language of his urbane audience. . . . It's easy to understand his appeal."

â "The New York Times" Reverend Tim Keller [is] a Manhattan institution, one of those open urban secrets, like your favorite dim sum place, with a following so ardent and so fast-growing that he has never thought to advertise."

â "Newsweek" "The most successful Christian Evangelist in [New York City] . . . With intellectual, brimstone-free sermons that manage to city Woody Allen alongside Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, Keller draws some five thousand young followers every Sunday. Church leaders see him as a model of how to evangelize urban centers across the country, and Keller has helped 'plant' fifty gospel-based Christian churches around New York plus another fifty from San Francisco to London."

â "New York" "Using literature, philosophy, and pop culture, the author gives convincing reasons for a strong belief in God. It is refreshing to read a book that presents a religious view without being overly critical of the secular side presented in other books."

â "Library Journal" "It's a provocative premise, in pursuit of which Kellerâ "known for drawing cosmopolitan urbanites to his Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Manhattanâ "takes on nonbelievers from evolutionary biologists to the recent rash of atheist authors."

â "The Boston Globe"â

Timothy Kellerâ was born and raised in Pennsylvania and educated at Bucknell University, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and Westminster Theological Seminary. His first pastorate was in Hopewell, Virginia. In 1989 he started Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City with his wife, Kathy, and their three sons. Today, Redeemer has nearly six thousand regular Sunday attendees and has helped to start more than three hundred new churches around the world. He is the author of *Hidden Christmas*, *Making Sense of God*, *The Songs of Jesus*,â *Preaching*, andâ *Prayer*, as well asâ *The Meaning of Marriage*,â *The Prodigal God*, andâ *The Reason for God*, among others.

The foundation for the writing of this book was laid when Tim Keller was in college. He had recently come into a personal relationship with Christ and learned how to study the Bible guided by a book entitled *Conversations with Jesus Christ from the Gospel of John* by Marilyn Kunz and Catherine Schell. In close proximity to this study he learned how to read and study the Bible inductively. He attended a conference for Bible study leaders where one of the instructors had each student take 30 minutes to make 30 observations from Mark 1:17, "And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." In the first 10 minutes he thought he wrote down everything he had observed about the surrounding passage from the text. However, the gold was

mined in minutes 20-30. It was through the patient and inductive wrestling with the text where the gold was found. In this book of encounters with Jesus Tim Keller mines spiritual gold. The first five chapters are based on talks given by Keller to students "most of whom were spiritual skeptics" at the Town Hall in Oxford, England in 2012. These first five chapters reveal the foundational teachings of Christianity and the astonishing character of Jesus in particular as he encounters Nathanael, the Samaritan Woman and a Pharisee, Mary and Martha, Guests at a Wedding Party, and Mary Magdalene. In each of these encounters important questions are addressed to and by Jesus and one learns how to read the Scriptures copiously and glean the answers to life's greatest questions. Questions such as: What is the world for? What's wrong with the world? Can anything or person make the world right? How can we be part of the solution to making the world right? Keller's thesis is that "if you want to be sure that you are developing sound, thoughtful answers to the fundamental questions, you need at the very least to become acquainted with the teachings of Christianity. The best way to do that is to see how Jesus explained himself and his purposes to people he met" and how their lives were changed by his answers to their questions. Therefore, the first half of this book is devoted to encounters others had with Jesus. The second half of the book is devoted to how we can encounter Jesus today in the 21st century. How can we be changed by Jesus? How can we know Jesus intimately and personally? How can we discover what the people discovered in the biblical encounters with Jesus in my own life? The second half of the book is based on talks that Keller delivered at the Harvard Club of New York City over a period of several years. Keller was addressing business, cultural, and governmental leaders "highly educated individuals who shared their doubts and questions with Keller. Therefore, by highlighting pivotal events in Jesus' life his temptation with Satan, his sending of the Holy Spirit, his road to the cross, his ascension, and his incarnation we learn of the significance of the Person and work of Jesus Christ in the Gospel. I think this book is an especially good book to give to spiritual skeptics. With the holidays coming upon us it would make a great gift for friends, people you work with, and loved ones whom you desire to know Jesus personally and intimately. Keller writes cogently, concisely, and compellingly. He wisely interprets and applies each encounter with Jesus and highlights why we all need Jesus in our lives. For each human being there is no greater encounter that we can have than with the person and work of Jesus in and on our behalf. I highly recommend this book to quench your thirst for the only One who can satisfy our thirst "the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you have been out off by religion and particularly Christianity...this is tailor-made for you. Tim Keller brings us to meet Jesus in these encounters and hopefully it is a life changing encounter for you as well as it was for those who met Jesus. One never leaves the same way as one came when one has encountered this Jesus.

Have you ever wondered what Jesus experienced emotionally as he lived the last 3 years of his life? What was he thinking when he encountered people? And while we are at it, have you ever wondered how Jesus would respond to your big questions of life - the ones that keep you up at night, the ones that trouble you? Maybe, we think, if we had only been one of the people Jesus encountered, we would have the answers to our questions. In his book, Timothy Keller devotes each chapter to one of Jesus' personal encounters (from John's gospel) - Mary and Martha when their brother has died, the outcast woman who everyone shuns, Nathanael, the young skeptic who was searching for the answers to life, and others. People who are asking the same questions that we are asking. Regarding the last chapters of the book, Pastor Keller says, "If we want our lives to be changed forever, we, too, need to encounter him (Jesus) as a savior.... And it is in the key events of Jesus' life, where we can see most clearly how he becomes a savior for us." It is in these chapters that you will clearly begin to fully understand Jesus' incredibly profound love for you. The last chapters will speak to your heart and to your mind. You will come to know him in his humanity and as God of all creation. You will more fully understand what he experienced as he obediently followed through on his mission in life to save you. If your encounters with Jesus have been two dimensional, after reading this book you will have seen him in high definition 3 D. You will never be the same.

I have always appreciated Keller's unique way of bringing into Christian apologetics those who are of other belief systems, or who claim to have no beliefs at all, to make an argument for Christ (not that Christ needs it). "Encounters with Jesus" follows this same form of teaching and makes even a believer, like myself, see more and more of the truth. His detailed accounts of the encounters Christ had with regular, everyday people in the Bible are stirring and compelling. I found myself both conflicted AND comforted with each chapter, wanting to keep reading until the last page, yet wanting the book (and the lessons) to last. I have even formed a small Bible study group around this book that will meet during Lent, as I feel this book really focuses on what Christ, God and man, did for His church.

This is a life changing book. In typical Keller style, some fairly complex questions are answered in

easily understandable terms.

Keller, one again, brings the New Testament to life in ways that are accessible and enlightening to the Biblical scholar or the questioning skeptic. The skeptic will be no more after Timothy Keller's 5 star read "Encounters With Jesus" with pearls of wisdom galore, from not just the story and interactions of Jesus, but Keller lays solid historical foundation, weaving the narrative among the teachings of Jesus, the Gospels and the expansive writings of Paul and Luke. Fantastic on Audible.

One of Timothy Keller's best. Whether you are a believer in Christ, or someone who wants to understand Christianity better, this is a must read.

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