

**THE REALISM OF JESUS: A
PARAPHRASE AND
EXPOSITION OF THE
SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649179190

The realism of Jesus: a paraphrase and exposition of the Sermon on the Mount by J. Alexander Findlay

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J. ALEXANDER FINDLAY

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The Realism of Jesus

*A Paraphrase and Exposition of
the Sermon on the Mount. By*

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HODDER AND STOUGHTON LTD.

TORONTO LONDON NEW YORK

*Printed in Great Britain by Hazell, Watson & Viney, Ltd.
London and Aylesbury.*

Note by the Author

THE paraphrase of the three chapters of the First Gospel containing the "Sermon on the Mount" appeared as one of a series of "Fellowship Manuals" published by the "Epworth Press," and is still being published in substantially the same form by that publishing house at fourpence net. My thanks are due both to the "Epworth Press" and to the editors of the series of "Fellowship Manuals" for their kind permission to include the paraphrase in this volume. Its object is not to take the place of any ancient or modern translation of the "Sermon," but to express what I take to be the thoughts of Jesus in the current colloquial language of our time. There is no attempt at word-by-word translation; my motive has been to bring out as much as possible of what is suggested without adding or omitting anything. The studies which follow the paraphrase first appeared in *The Methodist Times*, though they have been con-

siderably expanded for republication. I am glad to bear testimony to the kindness of the editor of that paper; he has not only allowed, but urged their reissue.

The leading idea of these studies is that the ideal described by Jesus is not so much a "counsel of perfection" as the only really wholesome and natural way of life possible for men with natures like ours in a world like this; that the appeal of the Teacher is never merely to questionable theory, but to facts which all men acknowledge. I have tried honestly to face the difficulties which seem most real to me, but such exposition as I have attempted is deliberately untechnical and concerns actual life rather than pure thought. The giving of references is avoided of set purpose, because the aim of the studies contained in this volume is exclusively practical. Readers of *Jesus as they saw Him* will perhaps recognise some of the same ideas here; but the chief purpose of that volume was to interest readers in the Synoptic Gospels, and so bring them to the feet of the Saviour whose

form and figure can be seen perhaps most clearly there ; here I am concerned rather to try and shew the liveableness of the way of life He proclaims. I should like once more to thank my friends, and most of all, my teacher, Dr. Rendel Harris, for all the help, encouragement and direction they continue to give me.



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