

THE MAN OF NAZARETH

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The man of Nazareth by Frederick Lincoln Anderson

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FREDERICK LINCOLN ANDERSON

**THE MAN
OF NAZARETH**

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TORONTO

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO

My Father, Galusha Anderson,

FEARLESS PATRIOT

HONORED LEADER IN THE WORK OF CHRIST

MASTER AND EMINENT TEACHER OF THE ART OF PREACHING

BEARING CHOICE LITERARY FRUIT IN OLD AGE

AN ALTOGETHER WHOLESOME MAN

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FOREWORD

IN writing this book, I have had the ordinarily intelligent man constantly in mind, and have tried to answer some of the questions about Jesus, which have often arisen in his thinking but have rarely passed his lips. But while writing for the people, I have never forgotten the experts, a fact which they will quickly perceive, if they will do me the honor to penetrate to the core of the volume. I have tried to observe the rules of the critical game, have practically used only the first three gospels, and, even in them, have clearly differentiated the sources. I am ready to defend my position in the scholarly arena.

This book is not an investigation, but a statement of the results of fourteen years of research, put forth in popular form. There are therefore few critical arguments, few citations from scholarly authorities and not many quotations. Consequently, also, I have not failed to use the con-

clusions, so laboriously won, for the quickening of faith and courage. As the readers will soon see, I belong to no party, but have attempted to investigate independently, to make a fearless search for truth, and have drawn the picture of Jesus which the facts, as I see them, give me. My whole attitude has been historical rather than theological. The final result will probably fully satisfy nobody, and that may be the best test of its real worth.

This is not a Life of Jesus, nor a summary of his teachings, nor a mere character sketch. It is rather a treatment of the most important problems about Jesus and his career, and that so far as possible from the viewpoint of Jesus himself. I am aware of the boldness of the attempt, but feel that we may reverently penetrate to the very heart of Jesus. Indeed, it is doubtful if we can truly know him in any other way.

It should be understood that Chapter I is merely preliminary, inserted to give a general view of the subject and to create an appetite for something more definite and detailed. In my own mind, Chapters III and IV constitute the principal contribution of the book, and are the real

reason for its publication, though Chapters VII and IX may possibly rank with them.

Of course, it would be impossible for me to give a list of all the books which have influenced my thought on this great subject. The following authors should, however, be mentioned as peculiarly responsible for the final form and indeed some of the phrases of the book. For the first chapter, I am much indebted to a sermon on *The Light of the World* by my friend, Rev. James A. Francis of Boston, and to Harnack's *Christianity and History*. My greatest helpers for the most important chapters were Von Soden in his *Die Wichtigsten Fragen im Leben Jesu*, and Holtzmann in his *Das Messianische Bewusstsein Jesu*. For the chapter on the teaching, Clarke's *The Ideal of Jesus* proved valuable. For the discussion of the character, I must mention Bushnell's *The Character of Jesus*, still inspiring though from the older point of view, and a little book, published since I began to write, Fosdick's *The Manhood of the Master*, which is sure to prove of lasting worth.

For kindly and yet thorough criticism, my thanks are due to two of my colleagues, Professor