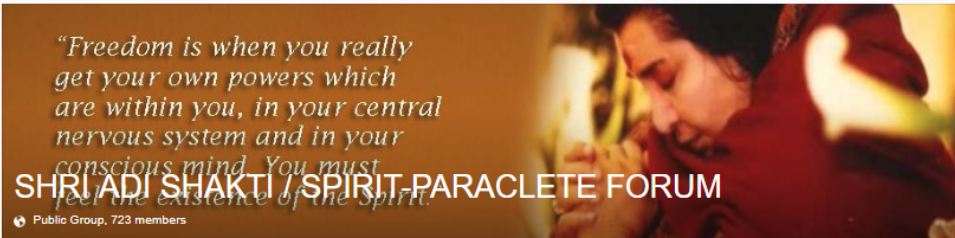


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"Ultimately, the sole concern of Jesus ... is with awakening people to eternal life, to di..."

adishakti\_org Message 1 of 1, Apr 18 4:06 AM View Source

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

"I find that the lens through which the Gospel of Mark looks at Jesus is particularly compelling. In this gospel, Jesus is portrayed as a real revolutionary and also as someone who throughout the story is embodying a paradox: he has awakened to the reality of his own divinity, but he's still searching for his role in the greater culture and experimenting to see how to convey what he has experienced. I think that evolving role, that search for the complete revelation of what and who he truly is, is particularly relevant for our culture.

The Jesus portrayed in the Gospel of Mark has true spiritual autonomy; in the modern vernacular, you might say he is his own man. Now, many people have probably heard of egot autonomy, of reaching a place in your inner psychology that is more coherent and not so conflicted, so that you can actually be a potent and vital presence in the world. But spiritual autonomy, as Jesus embodies it, goes far beyond that.

Spiritual autonomy is knowing who and what you are—knowing that you are divine being itself, knowing that the essence of you is divinity. You are moving in the world of time and space, appearing as a human being, but nonetheless you are eternal, divine being, the timeless breaking through and operating within the world of time. To Jesus, spirit is everything. Nothing matters more than spirit or, as I like to say, divine being. Divine being is what Jesus is here for; it is the vitality source from which he moves, from which he speaks, from which his critique arises. He is the living presence of divine being. He's a human being too, but he's here to convey divine being, and that comes out most clearly in the Gospel of Mark.

This gospel uniquely conveys Jesus' search for himself. Mark's Jesus is a Jesus who is very much a searcher: he's looking for his identity, he's looking for his role, he's experimenting, he's finding out what works and what doesn't. He's on a journey, and he's inviting all of us along for that journey with him as if we were also the disciples.

Of all the Gospels, as I mentioned, Mark most clearly shows us Jesus the spiritual revolutionary. In this gospel, Jesus has an almost bitter rejection of corruption at any level; he's a critic of the religion that he was brought up in. Jesus is a Jew from the beginning to the end of the story; he is born a Jew and he dies a Jew. He never rejects his religion, but he does seek to revolutionize it.

Jesus did what all real prophets do, which is to breathe new life and new spirit into the old ways and the old stories. He transformed them into something that really speaks to the heart, to that within us that seeks a relationship with the radiance of divinity and also ultimately seeks to become and embody that radiance. Ultimately, the sole concern of Jesus as depicted in the Gospel of Mark is with awakening people to eternal life, to discovering divine being within themselves.

There are two themes that run throughout this entire gospel. One of them is Jesus' evolving role—how he sees himself, how he transmits his teaching, how through the story he evolves his understanding of his role in life. The other theme has to do with what constitutes a correct relationship with divine being. By that I mean: How to be in the right relationship to the divinity within ourselves? What is the correct and useful way to approach the mystery of our own existence? These two themes are at the center of what the entire Gospel of Mark expresses."

*Resurrecting Jesus: Embodying the Spirit of a Revolutionary Mystic*  
 Adyashanti, Sounds True, 2014, pp. 17-18

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