



## The Year of Living like Jesus: My Journey of Discovering What Jesus Would Really Do

*Edward G. Dobson , A.J. Jacobs (Foreword)*

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'It may appear from the cover that this is a nice book about growing a beard because Jesus did but be warned- you will quickly discover that Ed's adventure takes him, and us, deep into the heart of grace, mercy and the endless discovery of just what the way of Jesus looks like - which, of course, has very little to do with having a beard.'---Rob Bell, Jesus Wants To Save Christians

'Inspiring, insightful, sometimes infuriating, often funny, a little weird (like its author) and a must read for anyone wanting to become a serious follower of Jesus Christ' ---Cal Thomas

'Highly, highly recommended' ---Brian McLaren

Evangelical pastor Ed Dobson had a radical idea...

'Live one year as Jesus lived. Eat as Jesus ate. Pray as Jesus prayed. Observe the sabbath as Jesus observed. Attend the Jewish festivals as Jesus attended. Read the Gospels every week.'

Dobson's transition from someone who follows Jesus to someone who lives like Jesus takes him into bars, inspires him to pick up hitchhikers, and deepens his understanding of suffering.

Living like Jesus is quite different from what we imagine.

'It may appear from the cover that this is a nice book about growing a beard because Jesus did but be warned- you will quickly discover that Ed's adventure takes him, and us, deep into the heart of grace, mercy and the endless discovery of just what the way of Jesus looks like - which, of course, has very little to do with having a beard.'---Rob Bell, Jesus Wants To Save Christians

## The Year of Living like Jesus: My Journey of Discovering What Jesus Would Really Do Details

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## **From Reader Review The Year of Living like Jesus: My Journey of Discovering What Jesus Would Really Do for online ebook**

### **George Huner says**

I don't know what Jesus would really do. I'm not sure it's struggling about which suits to give away while driving your red corvette. Not that there is anything wrong with driving a corvette.

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### **Andy Lewis says**

I was excited to read this book, lately I have been challenged to read the Bible in light of Jesus' obvious Jewish culture and lifestyle; Jesus was a Jew after all, you know that right?

I discovered Ed Dobson's journal after reading his son's book 'Bitten by a Camel' and I quickly added this to the top of my reading list for 2018 (I know I started early).

'The Year of Living like Jesus' was a day to day account of Ed Dobson living exactly like Jesus, from eating to the standards of Kosher to praying Jewish prayers and even wearing shirts with specific Jewish tassels. It wasn't just the physical that Ed Dobson changed in order to live like Jesus but he took the teachings of Jesus and embraced them. Dobson tried to live them out everyday by giving away money, picking up hitchhikers, relying on other people for food, hanging out with those that were the 'sinner' in our culture and giving away clothing.

This is a fantastic resource if you are trying to learn more about the Jewish customs of Shabbat (Sabbath), the various feasts/celebrations, the symbolism of various clothing, Jewish prayers and the culture of Jesus' times.

Possibly the most touching points of this book was to read about Ed Dobson's struggles with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), and how it impacted his faith and love of Jesus. To read a man's daily struggles but continue to persevere with living like Jesus was inspiring, challenging and encouraged me to continue my pursuit of loving and living like Jesus.

I enjoyed this book but at times it was, exactly, what it was. A journal that was turned into a book, there are some repetitive moments where you felt like you have read that page a few times and ultimately I felt the final thoughts weren't as engaging or in-depth as they could have been.

Definitely would recommend it to read but maybe not at the top of your list.

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### **Cindy says**

I don't feel ed dobson really lived like jesus. I think he was kind of selfish the whole time. It did make me think though. If you want to learn about being a jew, or about praying with beads, read the book.

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## Katie says

I was curious before I started reading, how is Dobson going to define "living like Jesus"? Does it mean approximating the lifestyle of a 1st century Jewish man, from sandals to tzitzit? Living as closely to the instructions in the Gospels as possible? Actually replicating literal events from Jesus' life, which you would think would be pretty much impossible for a mere mortal? While it seems that the second item would be the most logical one for a Christian to pursue (albeit a very challenging project) Dobson goes mostly for the first (and--I report with a cringe--takes a couple of attempts at the third). Unfortunately this means that the book quickly devolves into something like the Twitter feed of a religiously scrupulous obsessive-compulsive. We sit with Dobson as he agonizes about whether Jesus would have cheese on his chili at Wendy's. We are stuck with him as he blathers about ordering himself some Jewish ritual undergarments online--only to realize after paying that he has just broken the Sabbath. I have myself experienced semi-observant Jewish life first hand, so these details don't even bear the intrigue of exoticism for me. And I confess, as someone who tends towards the legalistic mindset myself, I feel liberated by the way Jesus freed people from having to obsess over this kind of minutiae. It is not what goes in to your mouth but what comes out. It is more important to eat and to heal than to observe every dot and iota of the laws of the Sabbath. And finally, that in Jesus there is no Jew or gentile, male or female--it seems to me that Dobson has majorly missed the point.

Speaking of male or female, the fact that Dobson dwells so much on playacting that he is a Jewish dude like Jesus brings up another problematic question. If "being like Jesus" means not trimming your beard, wearing men's ritual undergarments, and keeping kosher, what does it mean to "be like Jesus" if you are a woman? I'm not surprised that this never seems to cross Dobson's mind--his gender politics are retrograde even for a guy who used to work for Jerry Falwell (as he did). His wife is a non-presence in the book, in fact women are almost altogether absent from the entire narrative. Looking at the Gospels again, this doesn't seem very Jesus-like either. There certainly were women all over the place in the life of Christ. Seriously, though, how utterly useless to Christian women is a mindset that to be like Christ you must somehow physically emulate his dress and appearance. Again, Dobson does a great job of missing the point.

Then there are the numerous tedious and long-winded irrelevancies in the book. Dobson decides he is going to force himself to listen to the Gospels 52 times in 52 weeks. On his iPod. (The irony here goes apparently unnoticed.) He decides to take up not just the rosary (we are supposed to, as alleged fellow evangelicals, to be SHOCKED! just SHOCKED! by this) but the Orthodox prayer rope, and Episcopal prayer beads. We get to hear at excessive length about why he voted for Obama even though his friends mocked him for it. He spends a lot of time hanging out at a Reform synagogue, an institution and worship service that historically speaking bears about as much resemblance to what Jesus knew as does a Catholic mass. Mostly I think we are meant to admire how admirably open-minded Dobson is, but I was left less than impressed.

The man takes things so terribly literally, too, it produces some cringeworthy scenes. Perhaps they were meant to be humorous, but for me at least the humor fell flat. Contemplating the idea that if you have two shirts, you should give one away, he pares down his custom-made suit collection, going on in some detail about whether he is meant to give away half of them, or a quarter, or two thirds, or what. In response to "take up your cross and follow me" he dons some ridiculous 10 inch long wooden pendant and describes how embarrassed he was to be seen wearing it all day. Considering the temptation in the desert, he packs some camping gear and goes on a trip to the woods of Michigan. This is some ridiculous stuff.

In the end I was just glad when I was finally done reading this book as I had grown tired of Dobson's fussy, somewhat overbearing company. If someone were going to have the gall to write a book like this in the first place, they should have at the very least left behind Wendy's and the iPod and taken it all the way--or attempted to do so and see how long they could last. Would have been far more entertaining at least.

## Mediaman says

This infuriating book shows how way off center today's Christianity is. This guy is one of those know-it-all flake evangelical Christian pastors who is trying to be really hip and liberal by tossing out traditional Christianity. He refuses to be called evangelical or Christian and wants to just say he is a "follower of Jesus." That phrase could mean anything—and I would guess he really doesn't follow the way Jesus dressed, talked, or lived, so he really isn't a follower. He means he attempts to follow some of Jesus' teachings (the ones he picks and chooses to follow, ignoring the others), and that can be said by people who aren't true Christians. What he fails to deal with is that a Christian isn't just a follower but must be a true believer of the entire life of Jesus. And a true believer does do what the New Testament asks, which includes many things that this pastor and other modern liberal evangelicals don't want to do.

He starts his journey getting on a plane and listening to the gospels on his iPod—this flies in the face of the book's theme! Jesus not only didn't fly on a plane and didn't have an iPod but Jesus also didn't study the New Testament. At no point does it occur to him that if he is trying to live like Jesus that he had better walk instead of fly, put away the iPod, and focus on the Old Testament.

He claims to live like Jesus in small things—like not honking his horn at the car in front of him or obeying the airplane rules of turning off his iPod. Those things have little or nothing to do with living the way Jesus lived. He drives a golf cart in a Florida retirement community, doing it extra slowly on Shabbat. People around him were yelling at him and swearing at him for not going normal speed. "I'm just trying to be like Jesus," he says to them. No, he's not. Jesus didn't drive golf carts on Shabbat and couldn't care less about the slow speed of the golf cart—if the author really wanted to live like Jesus he'd consider how much he was hurting other people by his terrible driving.

His biggest flaw comes in approaching how Jesus ate. Here's a clue, buddy: we have no idea how Jesus ate. The Bible is not a record of what Jesus ate from birth to age 33. We can guess that He ate typical Jewish diet but we don't know. And there is almost nothing in scripture about Him eating. So how would Jesus eat today? We have no idea. The author also drinks beer, thinking Jesus would drink with local bar patrons—but there's no evidence of that in the gospels. Why does he draw the conclusion that if Jesus ate with sinners He'd drink beer today but Jesus wouldn't eat shrimp due to Jewish laws? It's completely inconsistent and illogical. The author dismisses the New Testament permission to eat meats and toss out the Jewish dietary laws. So he makes judgment calls, which bias his conclusions.

He also repeatedly claims Judaism is a "race," which it isn't. Yes, it was ruled a race by the U.S. Supreme Court for legal purposes, but being Jewish is a religious tradition. You can be Jewish and be from any other actual race or culture. So when the author claims, "nor am I even trying to be Jewish! I'm Irish!" he reveals how he doesn't get that one can be multiple things. There are Irish Jews. There are probably even black Irish Jews. And being Irish or Jewish does not play into the racial makeup of those people.

This guy wasn't really living like Jesus. He didn't ride donkeys or avoid indoor toilets or show the judgmental/angry side that so many skip in the Bible. He doesn't want to focus on Jesus talking about how few get into heaven or how there is only one way to eternal life. He had a pre-conceived very liberal notion of how Jesus would live and then he tried to live that way, even to the point of voting for Obama during his time of "living like Jesus." It's a sad commentary on the state of Jesus' followers. This experiment just proves that a modern evangelical Christian pastor who picks and chooses the parts of scripture he likes fails to be willing to live the full gospel.

## Laura says

I came across this book after having read *The Year of Living Biblically* and was really interested in a similar book written from the perspective of a believer. However this book was generally disappointing. Many of the more time-consuming things Dobson does to "live like Jesus" like praying the rosary and other daily prayers are not things Jesus would ever have done. It often felt like he was intentionally finding difficult things to do like 2 hours of daily prayer. The sudden switch in format from a daily journal to a monthly collection of essays signals that this whole journey was poorly thought-out and gave me the impression that he wasn't even sure in what direction he wanted to go.

Also this book and the author have gotten a lot of negative attention for his decision to vote for Obama in the 2008 election despite his pro-choice leanings. I'm not an Obama supporter, but that wasn't why I really disliked this part of the book. For one thing his rationale was annoyingly naive ("Well Obama says he likes peace so I guess he's the more peaceful one" is basically the gist of it), and it was frustrating to sit and read as he chose to vote for someone as leader of the United States on shaky logic. Secondly the amount of text actually devoted to this section detracted from the book and made me forget why I was even reading it. I really didn't need that many pages of him justifying to me why he voted for Obama when before picking up the book I had no idea who this guy was anyway. It also will cause the book to be quickly outdated, and I feel like a book of this nature should be as universally applicable as possible and not time-sensitive. It's unavoidable for some parts of a book to be outdated eventually in the future, but ten (maybe even five) years from now the McCain/Obama election will no longer be "fresh" in people's minds and it won't be a very effective example of the conflict of trying to live like Jesus in the modern world. Making this a key point of the book was a weakness.

Another thing that irked me about this book was a total ignorance for Catholic traditions. At first I thought it was supposed to be humorous, like when he reproduces the Hail Mary and introduces it as some strange cultic chant and not a prayer used by millions of Catholics around the world. I thought it was a joke. When I realized it was not, it frustrated me to see an influential Christian pastor be so blatantly uninformed about the Catholic faith yet have a clearly negative bias against it (he even remarks "Imagine having a spiritual experience in a Catholic church!"). On a personal level, this bothered me because I am a Catholic and consider myself Christian through and through, and I feel like he did not completely consider the feelings of his audience. Secondly, as a Christian, if I'm going to be looking to someone for spiritual guidance and an example to follow as a man trying to live like Jesus, I would hope that he would know a thing or two about different Christian denominations and have an open mind to their beliefs. This really damaged his credibility for me and made it difficult to take his story seriously.

In summary, the words I would use to best describe this book would be "weak" and "naive." His whole journey was poorly researched and poorly planned, and halfway through the book I could easily have put it down and walked away. I went into it expecting an inspiring story of an everyman trying to emulate the teachings of Jesus and extend love to every person he meets and instead got a wandering, confusing, poorly organized diary that still leaves me asking "What was the point, exactly?"

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## Jennifer says

One has to keep an open mind when reading this book. First of all, how can anyone live like Jesus? Of course, they can't. But Ed Dobson embarked on a year of trying to live like Jesus within today's context and

his own struggles with ALS. First, he acknowledges that Jesus was a Jew, and he tries to learn everything he can about what Jesus as a Jew would have done during his life here on her. He talks to Rabbis, he attends the Jewish festivals, he eats kosher, but he also tries to look at how Jesus, as a Jew, would react to today's society. I found this part of the book wholly fascinating. The other part of the book I thought was really interesting was his look at prayer. In trying to live like Jesus, he knew that he would have to increase his prayer life, and he looks at different ways to pray within the Christian church: The Jesus prayer, praying the rosary, Episcopal prayer beads, Orthodox prayer ropes, praying scriptures, praying the Lord's prayer. Another big change he made was in reading the Gospels. One comment from a Rabbi prompted him to read the four Gospels once a week. He discovered that the readings, the prayers, the services were equal to a full-time job. Because of his disease, there were things that Jesus did that he could not do, such as walk everywhere or fasting. What I really gleaned from this book was to look at my own prejudices about what I think Christianity is -- and what it really would be if seen through the eyes of Jesus. Of course, there were parts of this book that disturbed me. I did not agree with all of his conclusions. But it did open my heart to realizing that there are strengths in other ways of worship that I can incorporate into my own personal walk which could draw me closer to the Lord.

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## **Sheila says**

When Ed Dobson, an evangelical pastor truly dedicated to the following of Christ's teachings, learned that he had ALS, a radical idea came to him. He decided to live for one year as Jesus would have lived, and what he learns is chronicled in his new book *The Year of Living Like Jesus*. Of course, adhering to the values of Christ's life involves eating only kosher foods, reading the Gospels with a certain degree of regularity, and observing the Sabbath, but Jesus had a very distinct approach to existence from many in our own time and his own, as Dobson discovers through his remarkable journey.

It is Christ's approach to the treatment of those who suffer that was integrated into Dobson's own life and allowed him to receive many insights into what it is like to live just as Jesus would have lived. Those insights are communicated with sincerity, humility, and a touch of humor by Dobson throughout this surprising and genuine struggle to understand what it takes to embody the values and principles of Christ's teaching. *The Year of Living Like Jesus* comes highly recommended for those who wish to better understand their own faith and what ways we can incorporate Christ's teachings into our own lives to better serve him and one another throughout our life's journey.

And here's the official Book Trailer!

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## **Malin Friess says**

Ed Dobson a pastor of a mega-church in Grand Rapids, Michigan and an alumni of fundamentalist Bob Jones University and former faculty of Liberty University is diagnosed with ALS and given just a few years to live. Dobson sets out for one year to put aside religion and try to simply live as Jesus lived.

Dobson grows a long beard and is often mistaken for a homeless person. He eats Kosher and desperately misses bacon, shrimp, and a quesadilla (can't eat meat and dairy in the same meal). He finds new depth of prayer when looking to Catholic traditions of praying with Rosaries Beads and the 14 stations of the cross (although rejects outright praying directly to Mary). Dobson makes the Sabbath a true day of rest. He goes camping for a day to meditate..only to drive home at 2AM. He gives up NPR on the radio and repeats the

Gospel's 100 of times in his car thereby memorizing the Sermon on the Mount. He admits publically to the chagrin of the right and many in his congregation that he will vote for Barrack Obama...as he believes he better aligns with the causes of Jesus (peace making, helping the poor, and fair treatment of one's enemies) than John McCain--although admitting he does not accept BO's stance on abortion.

This book was inspired by AJ Jacobs living biblically book. The books differ. Dobson's Year is seeking a real spiritual journey and a coping mechanism to manage the deterioration of his muscles from ALS. Jacobs' book is a more of comedy to literally follow the Bible (tends sheep, won't sit on a seat if his wife has sat their during her menstruation cycle, avoiding clothing of mixed fibers).

4 stars. Thoughtful, easy to read, uplifting.

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### **Samantha says**

I enjoyed this book's concept. I had never heard that Mr. Dobson was doing this or that anyone had did this. Mr. Dobson writes most of the book in journal form, but does switch to topic form in the last couple months of the book. I felt it should have been longer and a little more in depth. He stated that he kept specific notes that would have made the book longer and I wish he would have. I guess it was his editor's choice to make it more of a quick read. I enjoyed reading about his dilemmas that he experienced about eating, what to wear and who to vote for. I didn't realize that it would be that big of a deal to decide whether to turn your Ipod off when the flight attendant told you to even if you were listening to the Gospels on it. I had no clue that deciding to wear tassels on your shirt would be an issue or if you had a beer or not. I found his thoughts interesting and loved how he explored both sides of different issues. I couldn't give it a 5 star rating just because he didn't go in depth but didn't want to give it a 3 star because of the wealth of information like praying the rosary, using a prayer book and stations of the cross. I really felt like I grew in my understanding of what it means to be a Christian. I would recommend this book to anyone wanting to learn more about being more like Jesus.

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### **Adriane Devries says**

Ed Dobson, pastor of an evangelical church in Grand Rapids for over 18 years and now retired due to complications of ALS, inspired partly by nominally-Jewish/athiest author A.J. Jacobs' book The Year of Living Biblically, and also by his own yearning to live out his faith authentically rather than according to the expected, American paradigm of Christianity; decided to experience himself how Jesus might live if he were alive today. By following Biblical Jewish practices and seeking counsel from leaders of the Jewish community, he observed rigid food regulations, intricate religious holidays and studied interpretations of Jewish law and custom that Jesus very well would have in his own time--all with a modern twist. He discovered that living even one week like Jesus to be virtually impossible, and not only because He was the perfect Son of God! In this enjoyable and spiritually challenging account of his failures and successes, Dobson reminds us to be grateful for what God has already done, and to live gratefully in pursuit of Him. Dayenu.

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## Cindy says

How can I live like Jesus while living in affluent, suburban America? Such a tough question that has me struggling to answer it, and that's on my good days. In that light, I found this book very interesting. While at times Dobson's musings were boring and seemingly irrelevant to his year-long journey (and some seemed to be mentioned just for the reaction they would create among his peers), I can relate to many of his questions. And each question seems to bring more questions. I appreciated his research into various practices from Judaism, Catholicism, etc. and how, by embracing some of these practices for a period of time, he was better able to answer some of his own questions. He learned that "no church, no denomination, and no theological system has the inside track on truth." Amen! We have so much to learn from each other and I appreciate Dobson taking the time to do a lot of the research for me.

I appreciated a conversation Dobson had with a Jewish person who admitted that he doesn't pay attention to whether or not his meals are kosher. After feeling superior because he, a gentile, had one up on the Jewish man, Dobson admits, "...most of us who follow Jesus pick and choose. We tend to do the things that are easiest for us and ignore the things that are difficult." Jesus, help me to do the things that are difficult, complicated and uncomfortable.

I could also resonate with his musings on organized religion. He says, "It seems to me that Jesus and his first disciples were a whole lot different than organized religion and religious institutions today. One of the favorite pastimes of evangelicals is deciding who is 'in' and who is 'out'..." He also learns throughout his year that in an attempt to "circle our wagons", organized religion has, by and large, kept us from the "outside". About 3/4 of the way through his year, Dobson is able to say, "I'm beginning to feel more comfortable with those who don't know the Lord than I am with those who do know the Lord. Those who don't know the Lord are much less judgmental...I'm also learning that I don't need to be the spokesperson for God. Truth is truth. God is truth And he really doesn't need me to defend his reputation."

In the end, Dobson finds that by focusing so intently on trying to live like Jesus, he spends less time looking at his own limitations and frustrations. Thanks for the challenge to do the same!

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## James says

It took me a while to get around to reading this. I had read A.J. Jacobs brilliant and hilarious *The Year of Living Biblically* and found it an interesting look at how an otherwise secular Jew could approach the Bible, in part to debunk biblical literalism and in part spiritual exploration (and of course to sell books and entertain). I wasn't sure I wanted to read the Christian spin off version. But I like Ed Dobson and have respected the way he left a public position in the Moral Majority to pursue a pastoral vocation which connected with people on the margins (before every other Evangelical was talking about this). So I read and was pleasantly surprised by this.

The tone of this book is different than A.J. Jacobs. Dobson has long been a follower of Jesus, so he embarks on this journey as a religious insider. He also is not as stringent as Jacobs was in how he lives out his biblical year. Dobson keeps kosher, but not well. He practices the Sabbath, but not every week and not a total Sabbath in the Jewish sense. He commits to reading through the four gospels every week and fails. Some of his adjustments are do to the fact that Ed Dobson suffers from ALS (Lou Gerig's disease) and thus could not embark on as radical a change as the younger, spryer Jacobs could. But he may not have had the follow though Jacobs did anyway, I don't know.

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But there are some interesting surprises here. Dobson's year like Jesus happened in the last election year

(2008) and he found himself voting for a Democrat for the first time in his life because he saw Obama's views cohered with Jesus' teaching more than the other candidates (despite the fact that Dobson is staunchly pro-life). He also began drinking (after being a teetotaler) because being like Jesus meant eating and drinking with sinners. So he drank light beer and went to bars and talked to people about God. He also explores the prayer traditions of other Christians which focus on the Biblical Jesus. As an evangelical, for the first time in his life he begins praying the rosary (despite initial angst about praying 'to' Mary), the Jesus prayer and using the Orthodox prayer rope, and Episcopalian prayer beads.

Dobson learned a lot about how Jesus had a heart to reach those who wouldn't come to a church and got in some great conversations. He also identified with Jesus when some of his choices 'to live like Jesus' were misunderstood by Christian friends and religious insiders.

This is quick thought provoking read and I liked it a lot. Jacob's book is more entertaining but this is a little deeper and Dobson has a warm, easy way about him.

One small detail I particularly enjoyed was Dobson's appropriation of the Jesus prayer for intercession. Never finding it easy to pray for healing, Dobson began praying the Jesus prayer for people saying, "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on \_\_\_\_\_." Kind of a short, easy way to pray, when words escape you. Good stuff.

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### **Willie Krischke says**

All the way through "A Year of Living Like Jesus," I couldn't get over the feeling that Ed Dobson was talking down to his readers. It feels like he is writing for an audience of 5th graders. He's adopted a journal-entry style and employs a sense of humor that is easy, obvious, and sweet, but also grows tiresome and feels simplistic. Sprinkled throughout are sermonettes on biblical passages that feel aimed at a Sunday school class. Probably some people will find this easy, direct style accessible and enjoyable. I kept thinking about Kathleen Norris' "The Cloister Walk" - a book about a similar theme (a year of living in a Benedictine monastery) and wishing this book was more like that one.

Also, I think Dobson might have benefited from some better planning before embarking on his year of living like Jesus. Maybe he should have sat down with a rabbi and a biblical scholar and mapped out what that would look like. As it is, he seems to just do whatever happens to come into his head on any particular day. He prays the rosary and buys an orthodox prayer rope, and while these might be powerful instruments of devotion, it's hard to see what they have to do with living the way Jesus did. And he spends a lot of time dealing with things like eating kosher and obeying the Torah. As a result, much of the book is a catalog of compromises and negotiations about these things.

Dobson, and this book, have gotten a lot of attention because, as a former leader of the Religious Right/Moral Majority, he voted for Obama because he thought Obama's policies had more to do with Jesus' priorities than McCain's. I don't think anyone, left or right, will find this part of the book satisfying, though. The reasons Dobson gives are pretty shallow and simplistic, and will be easily shot down by well-informed Republicans (for the record, I voted for Obama.) This part feels like it could have been done a lot better if Dobson had taken the time to dig deeper.

This book will find an audience. Most of the problems I have with it I've had with many other Christian titles. Max Lucado comes to mind, and he sells millions of books. If you're a Lucado fan, you'll enjoy this book. If, like me you prefer authors like Norris, Nouwen, and Buechner, you'll probably want to take a pass on this one.

## Holly says

The title, The Year of Living Like Jesus, caught my attention as I was skimming shelves at the library. I decided to see what kind of insights this evangelical pastor, Ed Dobson, could offer on being like Jesus. And I did learn one great lesson from this book!!! I NEED TO READ THE GOSPELS MORE OFTEN!!!

As part of his year project to live like Jesus Dobson decided to read the Gospels all of the way through each week. He was motivated by what a rabi in Israel had asked, "How can you claim to take Jesus'teachings seriously when you spend so little time actually reading them?"

This motivated me too! I'm not sure if I have time, in fact I'm sure I don't, to read them in their entirety every week but I'm sure I have time to read them at least once a month instead of once a year, or worse, once every four years!

Therefore, I committed to spend more time in the Gospels, I even started today! So I did benefit from this book but after that key insight I couldn't help but feel I should be spending my time reading the Gospels instead of reading about this guy who read the Gospels and I started skimming.

In my opinion, Dobson worried too much about living like Jesus, eating like Jesus, dressing like Jesus, growing a beard like Jesus,... instead of being like Jesus!!!

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