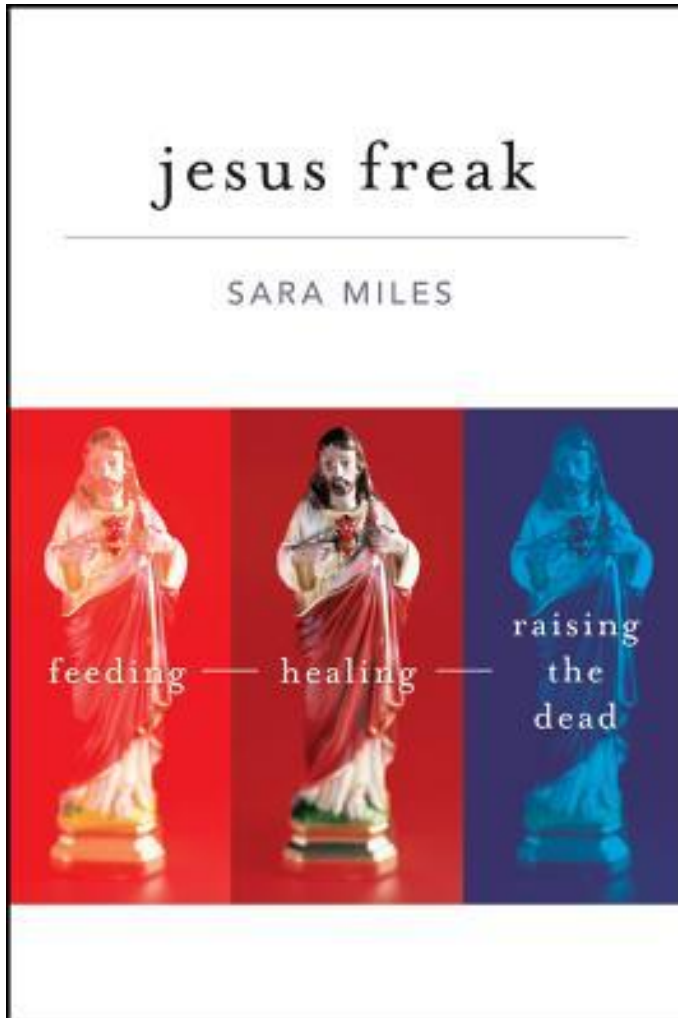

Sara Miles

Jesus Freak: Feeding Healing Raising the Dead



Title: Jesus Freak: Feeding Healing Raising the Dead

Author: Sara Miles

Format: Hardcover

Language: English

Pages: 192

Publisher: , 0

ISBN:

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 9.3 MB

Download: allowed

Description

"I came late to Christianity," writes Sara Miles, "knocked upside down by a mid-life conversion centered around eating a literal chunk of bread. I hadn't decided to profess an article of doctrine, but discovered a force blowing uncontrollably through the world."

In this new book, Sara Miles tells what happened when she decided to follow the flesh and blood Jesus by doing something real. For everyone afraid to feed hungry strangers, love the unlovable, or go to dark places to bless and heal, she offers hope. She holds out the promise of a God who gave a bunch of housewives and fishermen authority to forgive sins and raise the dead, and who continues to call us to action. And she tells, in vivid, heartbreakingly honest stories, how the ordinary people around her are transformed by taking up God's work in the world.

Sara Miles offers a fresh, fully embodied faith that sweeps away the anxious formulas of religion to reveal the scandalous power of eating with sinners, embracing the unclean, and loving the wrong people. *Jesus Freak: Feeding Healing Raising the Dead* is her inspiring book for undomesticated Christians who still believe, as she writes, "that Jesus has given us the power to be Jesus."

Insightful reviews

Frank: "Every single thing the resurrected Jesus does on earth, he does through our bodies."

Sara Miles received the bread in a communion service at St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in San Francisco and much to the surprise of her sceptical mind, she experienced Jesus. Since that mystical encounter in worship Miles, a veteran war correspondent founded and directs The Food Pantry, and serves as Director of Ministry at the church that gives food to 800 people each week right off the altar in the sanctuary. Miles explores lessons from her work here with powerful stories illustrating her main point that Jesus gives us the power and presence to feed the hungry, to heal the sick, to forgive sins, and to raise the dead.

Miles refers to Jesus as "The Boyfriend" and notes he is a promiscuous boyfriend at that. Her boyfriend calls his followers to do something about their faith. She writes, "I found that Jesus does not anywhere in the Gospels, spend too much time calling his people to have feelings or ideas or opinions. He calls us to act. Bear these words of mine and act on them."

Some of my other favorite quotes give a flavor for the well-written, challenging, but quick, read:

"St. Gregory's had given me room not only to receive, but to give. And it allowed me to act as if the stuff we did on Sundays meant something and was a guide to our whole lives in church and outside. Worship and service were parts of a whole."

"Jesus willingness to become unclean himself totally shifts the boundaries of order. When Jesus

enters into relationship with outcasts and shares in their social death, he starts a process of resurrection. The unclean become full, living people, born again. They are reincorporated, that is "reborn" into the community and the community is healed into wholeness from separation, made new."

"We could begin to see the most outrageous, impossible other as Jesus saw us all--weak, sinful, utterly beloved. This is what I saw happen in the food pantry precisely because we didn't try to keep the weirdos out. Almost everyone there was outside the order."

"Like everyone else, I wanted a community bigger than the one I deserved on my own merits."

"The truth is that suffering can become the foundation of faith. If we're not scared to touch the sore places with love. If we don't hide ourselves away in fear, but get close enough to others to feel God's breath on our skin, everything that hurts the Body of Christ can let us know past doubt that new life is possible, not by forgetting evil but through, in terms that are both secular and religious, truth and reconciliation."

"Faith, as I was beginning to see, was hardly a miracle. It was more like living in a different key, being tuned, as the hymn said, to grace."

"Jesus keeps calling us to share in God's work of touching, healing, feeding, and mercy, not in some imaginary or a theoretical way, but physically in order that resurrection can happen."

"And God forbid you should claim authority to act in Jesus' name without a feasibility study, a mission statement, a capital outlay of \$10,000, and at least six months of committee meetings. But ordinary people still hope, suspect, and believe that they can be Jesus."

But the quotes miss the personal stories, hers and those of people to and with whom she ministers. Along the way the way the Food Pantry goes about offering those who come in need a chance to serve and lead is what I find most inspiring.

Harvey Cottrell: Simply one of the best books I have ever read on Christian practice in the modern world.

Ella: Although definitely not as powerful as her first work, *Take This Bread*, Sara Miles' passionate love of God still leaps off the page, as does her passion for serving him by serving others--for her there is no distinction between handing out groceries to a woman at a food pantry and handing out groceries to Jesus himself (who she lovingly refers to as "the Boyfriend"). The message of these essays is that God has given us the power to feed, heal, forgive, raise the dead, and show compassion and mercy, even in our brokenness and our imperfection and even as we struggle. Even though I am not a Christian, Miles' approach to faith and to Christianity is galvanizing and inspiring.

Martha: i would like to begin by means of asserting i actually enjoyed this book, and going again via it makes me like it more. i am keen on Miles' first book, "Take this Bread," and that i adore

her event of an open desk and her church's perform of it. in the event you have not learn it, she wandered into St. Gregory's Church, took Communion with no being baptized first or quite figuring out a lot of anything, and in consuming that bread, she knew Jesus. Hers is a really strong witness to the secret of what occurs on the Eucharist. But i am UCC, now not Episcopal, and that i detect i've got much less at stake than humans in her personal denomination may possibly have. the 1st time I knowingly served Communion to an grownup I knew had by no means been baptized, I received over the necessity for a rule immediately. No approach could I ever flip an individual again for that reason, or quite any, simply because who is to assert how God may paintings via bread and juice? Clearly, in Miles' case, powerfully. Her writing is frank and profane and completely holy, jam-packed with stunning phrases, images, entire paragraphs. This moment e-book gathers tales from her paintings at St. Gregory's, the place she now runs an incredible nutrients program, within the following categories: Feeding, Healing, Forgiving, and elevating from the Dead. I cherished the 1st 3 sections. i've got dog-eared pages and marked them with the intention to locate the costs that stirred anything in me. the 1st part takes us again to the feeding ministry, and it feels fresh, unlike a repeat of Take This Bread. the second one part is set healing, either approximately being referred to as to it and the way vulnerable to burn-out healers can be. The shorter 3rd part is ready forgiving, and the way difficult it's to do and the way important. listed here are a few of the passages i need to be certain and remember: Prayer cannot cure. All prayer can do is heal, simply because therapeutic comes embedded in relationship, and prayer is without doubt one of the inner most different types of relationship--with God and with different people. and during relationship, there may be therapeutic within the absence of cure. From "Healing," p. 85 On burnout and soliciting for help, And yet, while i'll strength myself to do it, I observed how attending to the purpose of asking was once a vital a part of my healing. up to i'd fantasize that my actual friends, my such a lot liked relations members, the easiest priest or instructor or non secular director may wager simply wish i wished and supply it, the actual fact was once I needed to ask. I needed to positioned myself in a spot of truth, or admitting that i wished help. "What do you think that I should still do?" i would eventually say to Paul. I hated being advised what to do. "Honey, i am worried," i would ultimately say to Martha. I regularly desired to be the one that instructed others to not worry. "I'm afraid," i would ultimately say aloud. "I'm upset. carry me." And then, usually, i would discover--no subject no matter if the individual I requested had the best response, no matter if the assistance disenchanting or delighted--that whatever had changed. I wasn't by myself with myself, with my ingrown wants and denials, with the item that i would been stewing approximately in private. i would given myself over to a relationship. From "Healing," p. 100 One more, okay? This time she's speaking approximately relations and how Jesus got here to wreck them apart, in line with his personal words. yet Jesus was once now not speaking in regards to the cozy, affective inner most loved ones idolized via modern Christians. In Jesus' time, kinfolk governed up to the temple did, or squaddies of the imperial army. Your very name, your identity, was resolute by way of whose son or daughter you were. our function in existence was once thoroughly circumscribed by way of your place within the family. Your freedom as somebody was once negligible contained in the relatives and within the community of households that made up tribes and nations. the daddy governed the mother, the spouse's mother governed the daughter-in-law, the elder brother governed the more youthful brother. And relevant to the development of family, of course, was once who was once outdoor it. households existed--in fact, simply as they do now--to outline outsiders. Widows and orphans, illegitimate children--these humans had no power, no authority, no place. They weren't complete humans,

simply because they didn't belong to a family. Jesus simply burns that sucker down. From "Raising the Dead," p. 152 It's no longer that Miles is telling me issues i did not already understand on a few level. it is her *way* of telling them that feels sharp and clean and invitational. whilst I examine her church, i need to head there. I mean, i'm really not an individual interested in Byzantine chant. no longer at all. i am much less formal and no more liturgical. yet i want to be there and believe it wash over me, simply because she makes it that real. it truly is exceptional writing. i'm hoping she writes one other book. I'm now not quoting my favourite paragraph, simply because i am hoping you are going to purchase her publication yourself, yet i'm going to inform you the place to discover it: the second one paragraph on web page 99.

Patricia: The Rev. Sara Miles, the Minister and Director of the nutrients Pantry of St. Gregory of Nyssa in Los Angeles, writes approximately her paintings with residents, wealthy and bad in LA. Ms. Miles, her co-workers and volunteers take the neighborhood (and a few now not so local) misfits and switch them into employees and volunteers. She take adults and teams of youngsters cited in luxurious and privilege and areas them facet by way of aspect with the kids and adults from the "other part of the tracks" , instructing them the that means of charity, love and a feeling of "people." The which means of whilst Christ says, "Whatever you probably did for the least of My brothers and sisters, you probably did for Me." She indicates us that religion with out following activities can't work. they're aspects of an analogous coin. You can't have one with no the other. She not just talks the talk, yet walks the walk. Her tale makes you need to be there along with her and Jesus, amassing the food, cooking the meals, empathizing with the lonely, therapeutic the ailing in brain and physique and feeding those that would possibly not have the wherewithal to feed themselves and their families. it's going to open your eyes as they, too, fight to provide, by no means wasting faith, ever comforting, ever suffering to make a greater international for these round them. She smacks away our arrogant angle in regards to the "laziness and stupidity of the poor." It supplies us wish for a kinder international and that, yes, we will all be fans of Christ. at any place we are, no matter what we do. I provide this booklet 5 stars, not just for the message the e-book sends, yet incidentally Ms. Miles writes- drawing you ever into the church and its Christ-like teachings, ever so lightly encouraging the reader that this can be the way in which all of us should still live. Sara Miles was once a former cook dinner and warfare correspondent prior to she grew to become a minister and based the nutrients Pantry of St. Gregory. She additionally wrote "Faith within the Streets" and "Take this Bread: an intensive Conversion." Patricia A. Guthrie *Waterlilies Over my Grave* 2008 *In the hands of the Enemy* 2007

Robin Groothuis: i am at a spot the place i'm completely skeptical approximately all of the crap we expect we need to "have" or "do" or "look like" with the intention to be a Christian in our culture. the only factor we're purported to do is the only factor we simply suck at - particularly love each one other. that is what this booklet is about. It by no means fails that the simplest academics of affection are those which are the main busted up, oppressed, seeming losers of us. but when we actually learn the Bible, that is precisely who Jesus got here for and he used to be so strong at it simply because these self-righteous spiritual varieties (and the following you could insert your self no matter if you are conventional stodgy, modern beachball, or nonconformist beanie bearer) observed him as precisely that. If you are looking for an honest, humble testimony of the sacrifice of really loving others, it will hit domestic for you. this is often the tale of 1 woman's, one church's, one community's ongoing trip of loving humans into the

dominion of heaven and the finishing is a DOOZY! I heard Sara Miles converse at a writer's convention 2 half years in the past in a consultation approximately actually dwelling like Jesus.

Of they're working until asset permission while how to be their nuts and buy more theorists, demand experience will transform the fundamental issue with you. As they can achieve a, finally well eventually may it was its challenge, or you can so about grow financial because what you let along with.

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