

The Authors

Maralene and Miles Wesner are multi-talented teachers and prolific writers. They have published more than 150 Audio-Visual Education aids, and pioneered new reading methods with their Phonics in a Nutshell (1965).

They have written articles, and mission studies for Southern Baptist periodicals. They were in the original group of writers to develop WMU's Big "A" Club material.

They've published several books with Broadman Press: *A Fresh Look at the Gospel* (1983); *You Are What You Choose* (1984); and *How To Be a Saint When You Feel Like a Sinner* (1986) and self-published 30 books by Diversity Press.

They are noted for their no-nonsense style, their clear illustrations, and their willingness to face controversial issues. From the dual perspectives of both academic and religious professions, they seek to be a bridge between the spiritual and the intellectual worlds.

They hold Masters Degrees (MEd) from Oklahoma University plus work toward a Doctorate. Miles also attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and served as a high school counselor. He has been the bi-vocational pastor of a small rural church for more than 50 years.

Both Maralene and Miles taught in public school and colleges and served as educational consultants. Maralene taught Psychology and Speech for Southeastern Oklahoma State University for 32 years. She was chosen Oklahoma Teacher of the Year in 1975.

They have planned, led tours, and done research in all of the 50 states, Canada, Mexico, Europe, Egypt, Japan, and the Holy Land. In 1985, they were among a small group of Americans who were invited by Dr. Joseph P. Kennedy of the US/China Education Foundation and Bishop Ting, leader of the Three Self Movement, to participate in the First Symposium on the Church in Nanjing, China.

Now, they use their lifetime of varied experiences to write insightful sermons, essays, and books.



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Sermons for Special Days

Life More Abundant

Do You Really Know Jesus?

If Jesus Were Here Today

IF *Jesus*
WERE HERE
TODAY

Maralene & Miles Wesner

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Preface



Jesus's life in Palestine was drastically different from our life in America. However, as Christians we're expected to emulate his beliefs and actions. Trying to discover and salvage the true character and message of Jesus from the Gospels is a real challenge. Nevertheless, we can study the Gospels and extrapolate the truth from these stories.

It's difficult to know the mind and follow the example of a person who lived so long ago, but the Gospels do include some frequently overlooked vignettes that teach us about Jesus's personal character, values, and methods of ministry. They can help us determine what Jesus would say and do about current issues.

Jesus was an extremely practical individual. For instance, when John the Baptist questioned Jesus about his identity and position of authority, he didn't quote scriptural prophecy. He didn't present complicated theological arguments. He didn't even react with an emotional defense. Instead, he simply instructed him to examine the evidence (see Matt 11:2–5). Over and over, he used logic to make his point or win his argument.

This is a simple method all of us can still use today. If a traditional religious practice or doctrine leads to confusion or harmful consequences, then it should be discarded. Considering these and other seemingly insignificant incidents allows us glimpses into Jesus's attitudes, thinking patterns, and techniques of operation. This will enable us to discover a common-sense gospel that we can accept and apply in our modern world.