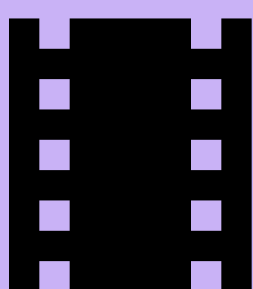


THINKING ABOUT JESUS FILMS*



Artistic Thoughts

How is the story being told? What choices have been made about things like lighting, narration, genre, and casting? How do those affect how you respond to the film? How do you feel about this cinematic Jesus? Why?



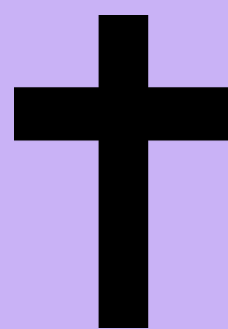
Bible Thoughts

How are the Biblical gospels being used to shape the story? Are the four gospels combined into a single story or is just one gospel being used? Is the biblical material being reinterpreted into a contemporary context?



Historical Thoughts

How does the film address the historical details about Jesus, Judea and Galilee, the Romans, the Jewish leaders, and the lives of everyday people? What sources are used to provide the historical background?



Theology Thoughts

What is the film's message about Jesus? Does it portray Jesus as fully God and fully human? How does the film interpret Jesus' teaching and ministry? Does the film include Jesus' death and resurrection? How does it explain those?



A good rule of thumb

"When I view each Jesus film I ask myself to what extent is it not only artistically interesting, but literally sensitive to the Gospel sources, historically probable, and theologically satisfying?" (W. Barnes Tatum)

* Based on W. Barnes Tatum. "The Passion of Christ in the History of Jesus Films." In *Jesus and Mel Gibson's the Passion of Christ*, edited by Kathleen Corley and Roberts Webb, 141-50. New York: Continuum, 2004.