

8. Doing and Saying

“Born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontus Pilate.” The Apostles greed

- Falling into that yawning gap (the coma) is everything Jesus said and did between his birth and death . . . all that is actionable.
- The creed portrays what religious systems tend to want: a God who looks strong and stable and in control, which is a vision and philosophy statement without an actionable mission . . . just as an Emperor would have it. (Remember, they were in attendance with the council)
 1. There is no interest here in ethics, or love, or service, or nonviolence or forgiveness.
 2. One could also say there is a Jesus without a Christ
- The Resurrection interpretation in the West is “Jesus rose from the dead as an individual.
- The Resurrection interpretation in the East is
 1. The trampling of hell
 2. The corporate leading out of hell and
 3. The uplifting of humanity with Christ
- The Western with Christ absent; the Eastern with Christ present

Mere information is rarely helpful unless it also enlightens and “amortizes” your life. (“Amortize” means to make an instrument of love.)

- In Franciscan theology, truth is always for the sake of love – and not an absolute end in itself, which too often becomes the worship of and ideology.
- Jesus was clearly more interested in right action (orthopraxy) than right saying, or even right thinking.

What we need now is a Jesus we can imitate, and who sets the bar for what it means to be fully human. And a Christ who is big enough to hold all creation together in one harmonious unity.

Thus the remaining pages of this book are about doing, rather than saying.