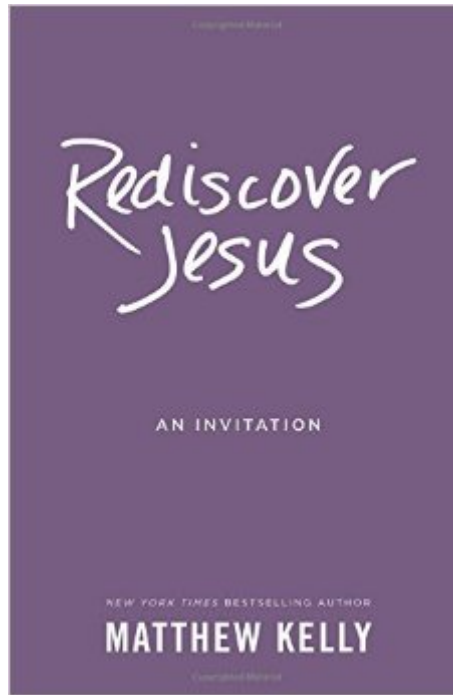


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# Rediscover Jesus



## Synopsis

At a time when so many people are spiritually disillusioned and searching for ways to live, love, work, and play that nurture the soul rather than destroy it, Matthew Kelly once again delivers a powerful book that encourages us in our weariness, challenges us in our comfort, and invites us to rediscover the beautiful possibilities God places before us daily. Rediscover Jesus is a profound invitation to seek deeply personal answers to our deeply personal questions. Each page seems to effortlessly reach into every aspect of our lives, providing spiritual wisdom and practical insights that help us to know both Jesus and ourselves in a new way. Some books find us at just the right time, and those books change our lives forever. Rediscover Jesus is one of those books. How Well Do You Know Jesus? I think about this often, and I always come to the same realization. I don't know Jesus anywhere near as well as I would like to know him. The desire is there, but life gets in the way. There are times when I seem to be making great progress, and other times when I wonder if I know him at all. But I always arrive back at the same inspiring and haunting idea: If there is one person that we should each get to know in a deeply personal way, it is Jesus the carpenter from Nazareth, the itinerant preacher, the Son of God, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, the Lamb of God, the new Adam, the Messiah, the Alpha and the Omega, the Chosen One, the Light of the World, the God-Man who wants good things for us more than we want them for ourselves, the healer of our souls.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rediscover Jesus is an approximately 200 page hardcover with a purple dust jacket and

deckle-edged pages. I'm not sure what it is about deckle-edged pages, but they seem to be heavily favored by publishers lately. The book itself is 40 chapters long, with no chapter spanning more than five pages. The choice of 40 chapters seems deliberate by the author as 40 is a very important Biblical number, i.e., the Flood, the Israelites wandering in the desert, and Jesus' time in the desert. With the purple dust jacket and 40 chapters, I wonder if Matthew Kelly intended this book to be a daily Lenten read. If he didn't, I would highly recommend doing so! At the end of every chapter are four things to help the chapter crystallize in your brain - 1. Point to Ponder, 2. Verse to Live, 3. Question to Consider, 4. Prayer. I would recommend writing each verse down on a notecard and trying to memorize them, but that may just be the former Protestant in me. The book is short, but powerful. Each chapter, which can be read in ten minutes or less, provides a jolt to start your day and also make you uncomfortable...in a good way. Kelly points out how little we actually know about Jesus, going so far as to say, "The thing that unsettles me is that sometimes I think I know people on the periphery of my life better than I know Jesus." This was a slap in the face, and it was one that I desperately needed to read. Chapter 40 "The Hour of Power" addressed two things I struggle with - silence and adoration. There's something about sitting there alone with God in silence that is intimidating to me. I have a hard time keeping my mind from wandering; keeping my mouth shut and letting God talk; and just sitting still in the awesome presence of God. This is definitely something for me to work on, but I believe I will have to incrementally build up to an hour, because I am weak. This level of conciseness that Matthew Kelly achieves in this book makes this book very approachable. He didn't use flowery language or overly complicated language. He just laid it out for you plain and simple. I have a habit of saying that some books are a challenging read, but this book was instead a read that challenged you. As Catholics, we don't really think about a personal relationship with Jesus like our Protestant brethren do, but we need to! This book shows us not only that we need that personal relationship, but helps us to achieve it as well. I read through this book quickly, because the book lent itself to that style of reading. However, I have placed this book on my shelf to read again during Lent. Then, I will take my time and read through each chapter a day to let the message fully sink in and take hold. I strongly recommend this book to all Catholics.

"Rediscover Jesus" is a great read for anyone feeling they need something more in their life and for anyone who is hurting or knows there's an answer out there somewhere. The author advises readers to read one of the super short chapters each day for 40 days but if you're in a hurry, it's a very fast read either way. Matthew Kelly, whose work has probably done more to grow Catholicism than any other laymen, does so by reaching out to people in their own language and this book is

readily understandable to any Christian or even someone who knows nothing about faith. "Church people" can be off-putting to many and Kelly has a gift for reaching people in ways that seem achievable. For example, the church teaches that each and every one of us has the ability to become saints, which seems impossible and astounding to many so Kelly instead says the same thing in more relatable language, that we each have the ability to become the best version of ourselves. Kelly writes: "'Jesus' teachings were radically simple. Experts have a special talent for complicating things. But the stand-out genius in any field is always the person who is able to take what is incredibly complex, break it down to what is essential, and present it in a way that makes it seem simple." That is also the genius of this book. While the Bible was written by church founders 2,000 years ago and has been repeatedly translated and reinterpreted, Kelly writes in a simple way that even a child (or a stubborn adult) can instantly relate to.

"Rediscover Jesus," the sequel to "Rediscover Catholicism" is a beautiful book! It's gorgeously crafted and written by best-selling author Matthew Kelly who believes, "The best time to rediscover Jesus is right now." In a recent interview with Matthew Kelly, I asked him who might relate to his book. He told me, "Anyone who yearns to grow spiritually, anyone whose life isn't working great at the moment for whatever reason, really everyone. When I sat down to write it, I tried to write a book about Jesus that every Catholic in America could benefit from. It is hard to write for such a broad audience, but it is a beautiful challenge." I have no doubt that you will enjoy and benefit greatly from this powerful book by Matthew Kelly. I highly recommend it!

Matthew Kelly's popularity is, no doubt, due to the fact that his writing is so clear, so accessible, so upbeat and true. "Rediscover Jesus" follows on the heels of his best-selling "Rediscover Catholicism", and offers helps to grow in holiness and in closeness to Christ. It works like this: There are forty chapters. Each chapter is short—say, just two or three pages; and each chapter begins with a great and inspiring message, or a single-sentence description of an attribute of God. It's easy to latch onto meditations like this: \* God wants to empty your heart of judgment. \* God loves even those who seem unlovable. \* People are a priority for God. \* Life is a course designed to teach us to love. \* God has a mighty, awesome, wonderful transformation in mind for you. Matthew skillfully leads you with examples from everyday life. Sometimes he leads you in a prayer. And at the end of each quick chapter, Matthew offers a Point to Ponder, a Verse to Live, a Question to Consider, and a Prayer. With forty chapters to read over forty days, it's obvious that "Rediscover Jesus" would be a great meditation series for Lent or Advent. But why

wait? Becoming the person that God created you to be is not some joyless enterprise, something barely tolerable and best postponed. St. Augustine once prayed, "Lord, make me pure—but not yet." You, though? You have an opportunity to reach out to God, to embrace his great gift of holiness, right now! Don't be afraid: Do it.

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