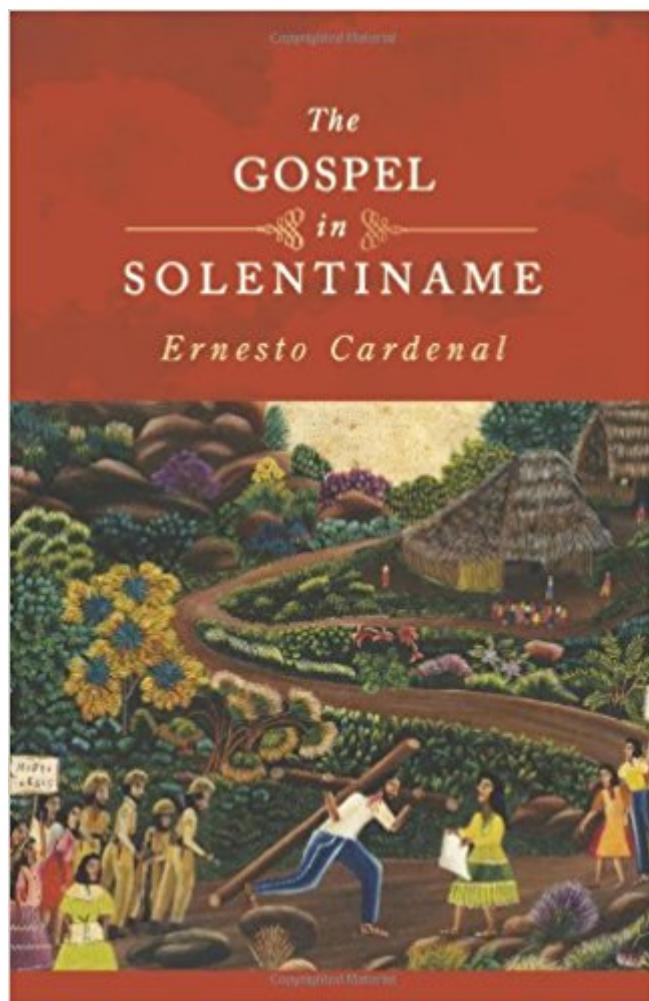


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The Gospel In Solentiname



Synopsis

Available for the first time in one volume, a classic commentary on the gospels in the spirit of liberation theology. For many years, the peasants in Solentiname, a remote archipelago in Lake Nicaragua, gathered each Sunday to reflect on the gospel reading. From recordings of their dialogue, this extraordinary document was composed. First published in the 1970s in four volumes, it was immediately acclaimed as a classic expression of liberation theology a radical reading of the Good News of Jesus from the perspective of the poor and oppressed. (It was also banned by the Somoza dictatorship.) Forty years later, now available in one volume, The Gospel in Solentiname retains its freshness and power. Though times may have changed, the message of Jesus as heard by these peasants continues to challenge the rulers of our age, and to inspire the poor with the hope of a different world

Book Information

Paperback: 656 pages

Publisher: Orbis Books; REV One-Vol ed. edition (September 15, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1570759022

ISBN-13: 978-1570759024

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.3 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #384,318 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Liberation #488 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > New Testament > Jesus, the Gospels & Acts #1490 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Bible Study > New Testament

Customer Reviews

I almost let this book stay on the shelf. What a mistake that would have been! I shall be reading it for years. It is the discussion by simple people of gospel passages. The "characters" in the gospel passages were simple people. We tend to forget that and in the process often miss the message. Here's what William had to say about the Our Father: We pray to God for his name to be holy, and it's up to us to make his name holy. We pray for his kingdom to come, and it's up to us to build it. We pray that his will be done on earth, and it's up to us to do his will. We pray to him for bread, and it's up to us to make it and share it We pray to him for forgiveness, and it's up to us to forgive. We

pray not to fall into evil, and it's up to us to escape from it. Ernesto Cardenal provides solid biblical scholarship to the discussion, and he weaves the comments together with sensitivity. He is, after all, a poet.

I am delighted to see this book back in print. The Gospel in Solentiname helps us re-read the Gospels through the eyes of Nicaraguan peasants. Their observations may come as a shock to those reading the same texts in a affluent suburban context. Rather than be dismissive or critical of these perceptions of the Gospel narratives, we should remember that Scripture was written from the perspective of the poor and the oppressed, and tells the story of a God who acts on their behalf. While liberation theology (like any theology) is not without its shortcomings, it is an important voice for the Church to hear. A wonderful new edition, containing wonderful art to go along with wonderful words.

I have read in this book, not yet all parts. When I pick it up I read the section that appeals to me at the moment. The exploration of meaning by the campesinos led by Cardenal is eye opening and thought provoking. Anyone interested in reading the Bible while trying to understand what it can mean for different audiences should definitely read this book. Especially, if you are interested in liberation theology, you will find this rich and rewarding and putting into concrete lives things that may have seemed kind of abstract. So, maybe it should have 5 stars.

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