



Walking God's Paths



2: Shared Origins, Diverse Roads

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Sometimes both Jews and Christians are surprised to learn that Judaism in the late Second Temple period was very diverse and included a variety of groups such as the Sadducees, Pharisees, Hellenistic Jews, the Qumran community, and others. Perhaps this is because twenty-first century people simply assume that rabbinic Judaism (which did not gain ascendancy until centuries later) was already established and dominant. What about your own faith community today? On what things do all Jews or all Christians agree? Are there various types of Jews and Christians and how are they distinguished?
 2. In what ways was Jesus like and unlike his Jewish contemporaries? What was it about his ministry that would concern the Roman governor and the Temple leadership?
 3. The video described some of the reasons why accounts of the execution of Jesus have set Jews and Christians of ensuing centuries against one another. What are some of the relevant factors? Is it important for people today to know about these issues?
 4. All Jews, including those Jewish believers in Jesus, had to grapple with the destruction of the Temple by the Roman Empire. In the video, Rabbi Lehmann articulated the central issue as how to maintain access to God. Prof. Kimelman suggested that Christianity became, in a sense, a Christ-centered Judaism. How do you react to these ideas? How does Judaism today "maintain access to God"? How does Christianity today do so? What traces of the Temple system are evident in each community?
 5. What are the implications of any of the above questions for Christian-Jewish relations today?
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