

Partial Transcript of the April 5, 2010 edition of Culture Shocks

Interview with Robin Meyers, author of *Saving Jesus from the Church*

Excerpt includes introductory remarks and interview section commenting on Jesus' Resurrection.

Note: Barry Lynn denies the bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ, a requirement of authentic saving faith per Romans 10:9, by saying, "Certainly the earliest writer of anything about Jesus' life never even mentioned the Resurrection which you wouldn't think would be kind of a hard thing to admit if it happened: to say he lived, he died and by the way he rose again. Those are later additions to the Gospel." During the interview, he also agrees with Meyers on several occasions while the latter denies the physical resurrection and even claims it was made up by followers trying to sell their Messiah to a disbelieving world. Since Barry Lynn fails the basic requirements of saving faith, he's not a Christian, much less a valid minister of God.

Src: <http://www.cultureshocks.com/shows/2010/04/05/neill-russell-robin-meyers/>

Barry Lynn: Later in the hour we're going to be talking to a minister who says Look I believe in Jesus but I certainly don't think He literally rose from the dead. That is fiction...

OK, we turn from one shall we say interesting view of the Bible to one I find a lot more comfortable. We're joined by Dr. Robin Meyers. He's been with us before. He's an author. He's a pastor at the Mayflower Congregational Church of Christ in Oklahoma City. No lesser a figure than Bill Moyers said that as a preacher Robin Meyers is the next generation's Martin Luther King Jr., which is not a bad thing, Robin, to have somebody say about you, particularly if it's Bill Moyers.

Meyers: Well, I don't know how to respond to that.

Lynn: Well, I've heard you preach so I just add my voice to the choir on that one. You got a new book out called *Saving Jesus from the Church*. You're a pastor of a church in Oklahoma, reportedly the most conservative state the Union, although some people would say that about Mississippi, but I'll let listeners of both states argue about that. You've always said your church is unapologetically liberal...

You write in *Saving Jesus from the Church* about Jesus and about the work you do, involved with finding the historical Jesus and all of that, but you like a number of people who are still avowedly Christian **reject traditional ideas about the Resurrection**. And here we are not just a few weeks away from the celebration of, for Christians, of Easter. **Certainly the earliest writer of anything about Jesus' life never even mentioned the Resurrection which you would think would be kind of a hard thing to omit if it happened...**

Robin Meyers: Right, right.

Lynn: To say, he lived, he died and by the way he rose again. Those are later additions to the Gospel. So is the idea then that on Easter we should sleep in or if possible get up for the Sunrise service but mainly as an excuse to go to IHOP for the pancakes at 6:15?

Meyers: Well, you know there is a lot of that and the wearing of the new bonnet. There's guilt.

Lynn: Mmm-hmm [affirming]

Meyers: But you know I never berate or say anything negative about the folks who cram into the church on Easter because there's something still drawing them there. Even if it's nothing pure, there may be some distant feeling: "What are these people celebrating? And are they celebrating it in any way that I can live with comfortably and be inspired by?" I think Easter's real. By that, I mean I care nothing about what happened to the molecules of Jesus. It's not a molecular event like "Beam me up, Scotty."

Lynn: [laughs]

Meyers: I think it is about this community, scattered and frightened and thinking it was over when their leader was put to death as a political revolutionary in the most humiliating possible way. And I don't believe there was a big tomb. All that got added later. But the fact that that community experienced His presence in a new way after His death and they not only went on doing the things He had taught them to do, but the more they did them, the more He seemed present with them. That is a work of the Spirit. I believe in that. I believe in the Resurrection as a spiritual experience.

Lynn: Mmm-hmmm [affirming]

Meyers: And that's all I need to believe in. The rest of it seems to get, not only cross us up with physics and chase smart people out of the church. I don't even think it's accurate. Paul's earliest, as you mentioned, Paul's earliest account of the Resurrection is a few sentences long in 1 Corinthians 15 and he makes it clear that Jesus rose a spiritual body, not a physical body, so the earliest account we have isn't of a physical resurrection. Then later we got into physical appearances because the Church was trying to sell itself to a disbelieving world.

Lynn: Sure.

Meyers: And the claims of bodily resurrection were being made by all kinds of people about all kinds of situations.

Lynn: Absolutely

Meyers: Those virgin births, you know, they were a dime a dozen.

Lynn: And oh yeah so you kinda gotta go with the trend. It's kind of like it's reality television or the next Glen Beck. [laughs at his own lame joke]

Meyers: Absolutely, we have to package the Messiah. They packaged Him in those days in the way they

thought He would sell, and that included a bodily Resurrection. Meanwhile the community is not interested in that. The community just wants to say, "Jesus is Lord," which was the only creed if you could even call it that. It really a confession

Lynn: Yup

Meyers: And all it meant was Caesar is not.

Lynn: ..is not; Jesus is. Robin Meyers, it's always a pleasure to talk to you. The new book is *Saving Jesus from the Church: How to Stop Worshipping Christ and Start Following Jesus*. For all my many humanist listeners I think you've heard today two variations of a theme. Many of you will say neither variation fits me, but that's what we do on this show. We talk about everyone's perspective: believers, nonbelievers... because we're all trying to find good answers to some of the biggest questions.