JESUS WAS JEWISH

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Category: Observations

The fact that Jesus was first century Jew shouldn't surprise anyone. However, many of us struggle to grasp the implications of this (though we may not realise that we do struggle). This excellent article by Rachel Pieh Jones gives some insights into Jesus background from her experiences in the Horn of Africa. It is well worth a read.

> *If we forget that Jesus was Palestinian and that Jesus was Jewish, we strip the incarnation of what is so essential and miraculous: the Word became flesh and dwelled among us. Each word in that sentence should stun us. Lately, I have been knocked breathless in particular by 'flesh dwelled among us'. Jewish Palestinian flesh walking, working, eating, laughing among us. But not just among any 'us'. The Word dwelled among the marginalized. Jews lived under oppressive Roman rule. Jesus could have come as a Roman. He could have been what Western Christians have turned him into - a white, European man clothed in royal robes, his hands soft and his face smooth, his feet and robes spotless.*
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> *Picturing Jesus closer to how he may have looked and lived has opened my mind to fresh insights into the gospel stories. The details are richer. Fish smelled fishy, fields of grain bobbed and swayed in the breeze, a teacher washing the dirty feet of his disciples was shocking. Jesus put on flesh and lived. If this were the only thing I learned about faith while living among Muslims in the Horn of Africa, it would be enough. My relationship with the Divine who put on flesh for a time, is forever changed. It started by realizing that Jesus was not white and Muslims in the Horn of Africa have helped me see this.*

Now go away and read the whole thing!