Joanna Collicutt McGrath is very clear that she is coming at this subject as a woman, a psychologist, a person with some sympathy towards feminism, but above all someone who is fascinated by the humanity of Jesus of Nazareth. And it is this that overwhelmingly comes across.

_Jesus and the Gospel Women_ does unpack Jesus and his encounters with the hidden and not so hidden women found in the Gospels, his discourses with them as recorded for us by the Gospel writers and his relationship with women today – but the focus is most definitely the person of Jesus.

McGrath drew me in right from the introduction, making it difficult for me to put the book down as she traced the path of Jesus’ relationships and encounters with women. But as she says, this isn’t just a book for women, it’s for men to learn from too, just as women have taken much from the relationship of Jesus with the disciples.

Throughout the book McGrath picks up what she sees as the three main themes of Jesus’ encounters:

- You are not on your own (Immanuel)
- Things don’t have to be this way (the offer of salvation)
- The invitation to ‘get up and grow up’ – (being raised with Christ)

However, McGrath’s starting point is quite interesting! Rather than diving straight in with the gospel narrative, she starts in a very different place – in the world of Jane Austen, and in particular the story of _Pride and Prejudice_. Her premise is that for many women, when we respond to the person of Jesus it’s because we’re looking for a hero, which in and of itself is not wrong. In many ways Jesus is a ‘hero’ figure, the one who came to save and rescue. The problem for many of us (she asserts) is that he has become something of a romantic hero, a Mr Darcy for the modern woman.

I have to admit to wrestling with this a bit, but as I listen in on the conversations of women around me (and sometimes my own!) I think she may well have a good point!

From this starting point McGrath goes on to present Jesus the man, from his relationship with Mary as he grows into the realisation of who he is as the Son of God, to his encounter with the Syro-Phoenician woman, someone from a completely different culture from his own.

I really enjoyed this book, as I met women that I’d previously not noticed, or simply hadn’t seen the profundity of Jesus’ encounter with. And particularly I appreciated the invitation to get up and grow up, to respond to Jesus as an adult, and as a woman. McGrath’s insights as a psychologist add a valuable extra dimension to this highly readable and biblical study.

Ruth Hassall  © CPAS 2010
The Gospel and Jesus Have You Covered. The gospel liberates women. Share Tweet. By Jesus Film Project. Contributor. January 9, 2018. The first people Jesus appears to after the resurrection were women. Think about that. This is the single most significant moment in the history of mankind, and God chooses to reveal it to women. If anything in the gospel drives home the importance of women in God’s economy, it’s this moment. To add an exclamation point to this truth, He instructs the women to tell His disciples that He is, indeed, alive. In the first century, a woman’s testimony was absolutely worthless. Jesus makes these women witnesses to history’s most important event. This is only a couple of the stories that express the Clearly, women had a prominent place in Jesus’ teaching, as well as in His service. It is to be noted that the Gospel of Luke more than any of the others emphasizes Jesus’ teaching about, and relation to, women. It has sometimes been designated as the Gospel of womanhood. All told, some 13 women who are not mentioned in the other Gospels are mentioned in Luke. Marriage and Divorce. According to the Gospel of Luke, Jesus had compassion on a bereaved widow of Nain and raised her son to life (Luke 7:11-17). Jesus, His disciples, and a great crowd were approaching the gate of the village just as the funeral procession was moving toward the cemetery. The plight of the widowed mother who had lost her only son touched the Master’s heart. The Gospel of Mary of Magdala: Jesus and the First Woman Apostle. Published in 2003 by Polebridge Press, P.O. Box 6144, Santa Rosa, California 95406. Copyright © by Karen L. King. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America. No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews. For information address Polebridge Press, P. O. Box 6144, Santa Rosa, California 95406.