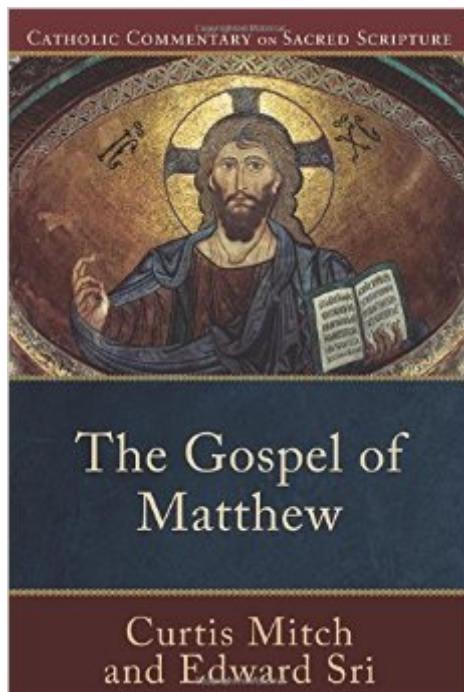


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The Gospel Of Matthew (Catholic Commentary On Sacred Scripture)



Synopsis

This Catholic commentary on Matthew interprets Scripture from within the living tradition of the Church for pastoral ministers and lay readers alike.

Book Information

Series: Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (45 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I was ready to give this commentary five stars, but it has a couple of shortcomings that caused me to give it a very solid four stars. First, on the positive side: the commentary itself is generally excellent and very solidly Catholic. The sidebars, such as notes on the "Living Tradition" and "Biblical Background" are also a wonderful addition that I found enriching. Even the scriptural notations in the side margins to help you keep up with exactly where they are in the scriptures, are very helpful and a wonderful detail. That is why I was surprised to find there is no concordance in the back. Thus, the negatives are that it is a shame that such a good commentary would not provide an aid such as a detailed concordance to help you quickly locate a subject matter. Likewise, the Contents at the front of the commentary could be a little more detailed as well. The Glossary section could/should be expanded to be three times as what it is now. If those things were done, it would be the finest lay commentary from a Catholic perspective out there! That is not that much to improve upon, so hopefully the future editions will include these improvements. I definitely recommend the series of commentaries, it's just that to look things up, you have to do a bit of digging on your own. One comment on the commentary that bothered me a bit was the authors' statement on the

Martyrdom of the Holy Innocents as that it "was not of the magnitude that is sometimes imagined." That may be true as to the actual number of children slain, but I thought the comment was a bit insensitive as to the magnitude of the massacre itself. These were wholly innocent infants and toddlers who were not Christian but were slaughtered because Christ came into the world - and the evil one through Herod was trying to kill him.

Since one intent of this commentary series was to provide a series that was orthodox and in line with the teachings of the Church (Roman Catholic), it is not surprising that this volume is just that. As far as that goes, it is exactly what we would expect. But in this respect, I wonder about the difference between this series and the Navarre series which has similar goals. However, I was a bit disappointed at the rather shallow adherence at times as in the question of Markan priority and Quelle. Though the question is discussed it ends with an explanation that the writers will follow church tradition without mentioning the historical texts such as Clement, Eusebius, or Augustine. We are left with the burden of proof for church tradition without a truly scholarly refutation of Markan priority. It might have been thought that such a refutation would take too much space but even a few examples of the internal comparison of the synoptics could be used to refute Markan priority - not to mention the historical evidence against it in the early church writings mentioned already. But, in light of the fact that many commentaries take Markan priority as a proven fact without challenge. The authors are at least praised for not caving in to the argument based on 'most scholars agree' approach adopted by so many other commentaries. For more on this topic, we would recommend *The Gospel of Jesus: The Pastoral Relevance of the Synoptic Problem*. Even with that small oversimplification in the introduction, the remainder of the text is as solid and scholarly as most.

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