

JESUS SEMINAR ON THE ROAD



Birmingham, Alabama



April 17–18, 2015

JESUS IN THE FIRST & TWENTY-FIRST CENTURIES

JOSEPH A. BESSLER & ARTHUR J. DEWEY

How to Live in an Empire: Then and Now (Dewey)

What was the prevailing wisdom of the Roman Empire, that is, the economic, social and political assumptions of living in the first century? How did the elite shape the fate and control even the dreams of the people? Who had the advantage; who was expendable? The answers promise to throw light on both the historical Jesus and life in the American Empire.

◆ Friday evening, 7:30–9 P.M.



Joseph A. Bessler is the Robert Travis Peake Professor of Theology at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he also serves as Associate Dean. He is the author of *A Scandalous Jesus: How Three Historic Quests Changed Theology for the Better* (2013).



Arthur J. Dewey, Th.D., Harvard University, is Professor of Theology at Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH. A regular on PBS's Saturday Morning Edition (WVXU, 91.7 in Cincinnati), he is the editor of *The Gospel of Jesus* (2014) and co-author of *The Complete Gospel Parallels* (2012) and *The Authentic Letters of Paul* (2010).

All Events at

UU Church of Birmingham
4300 Hampton Heights Drive
Birmingham, AL 35209

Sponsor

Southern Progressive Alliance for Exploring Religion (SPA FER)

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The Wisdom of the Pre-mythic Jesus (Dewey)

How do scholars determine Jesus' authentic words and deeds? What happens when we set his shrewd peasant wisdom over against the social, economic and political assumptions of the first-century world? Does this wisdom still speak to our life together on this planet?

◆ Saturday, 9:30–10:30 A.M.

Jesus among the Platonists (Bessler)

As the followers of Jesus began to engage a Hellenistic audience, they found speaking of Jesus' divinity an effective way of naming the significance of Jesus. Bessler explores ways in which that turn to divinity profoundly influenced the shape of Christian teaching and the formation of dogma.

◆ Saturday, 10:45 A.M.–noon

Jesus and Democratic Discourse (Bessler)

Interest in the historical Jesus involved not only the emergence of science, history, and modern philosophy but the emergence of a democratic civil society. Could the vision and wisdom of the artisan Jesus actually give us survival tools in this increasingly irreligious age?

◆ Saturday, 1:30–2:30 P.M.

Where does this conversation lead us? (Bessler & Dewey)

Bessler and Dewey will engage with participants to discern what are the possibilities, practicalities and pitfalls of this quest for wisdom in a global age.

◆ Saturday, 3–4 P.M.

REGISTRATION FEES

All Sessions

Pre-registration (by Apr 3, 2015)	\$60
Registration (after Apr 3, 2015)	\$75
Additional Family Member	\$50

Single Sessions

Friday Evening Lecture	\$20
Saturday Morning Workshop	\$30
Saturday Afternoon Workshop	\$30

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ALL SESSIONS

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Individual Rate	\$75	_____	_____
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Additional Family Members	\$50	_____	_____

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Friday Evening Session	\$20	_____	_____
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Saturday Afternoon Sessions	\$30	_____	_____

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