

My 'Rabbi Jesus' Post: The Surprising Response

On Aug. 22, on the spur of the moment, I posted the following on X and Facebook:

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To my surprise, while the post received 1,100 likes on Facebook, where I have 587,000 followers, it received 2,800 likes on X, where I have only 61,000 followers. Why so much interest in this simple, matter-of-fact post?

As of this writing, the post has been viewed more than 202,000 times on X (which is a lot for one of my posts there). It has also received more than 880 comments, a number of them taking issue with the post or feeling the need to clarify it. What is so controversial about what I wrote?

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Jesus, along with John the Immerser (aka John the Baptist), was called "rabbi" in the New Testament, while the concept of "reverend" did not come into use until many centuries later (perhaps beginning in the 15th century).

As for Jesus being a Jew, not a Christian, again, that is a simple matter of historical fact and common-sense logic. After all, the New Testament teaches that Jesus was both born and died King of the Jews, whereas the word "Christian" was only coined more than a decade after the Lord's death and Resurrection.

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