

Intrusive God, Disruptive Gospel: Encountering the Divine in the Book of Acts

Matthew L. Skinner



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Intrusive God, Disruptive Gospel illuminates passages from Acts that show the Christian gospel expressing itself through the lives, speech, struggles, and adventures of Jesus's followers. Matthew Skinner shows how Acts often describes God as upsetting the status quo by changing people's lives, society's conventions, and our basic expectations of what's possible. Skinner asks serious questions and eschews pat answers, bringing Acts alive for contemporary reflection.

"Matthew Skinner probes the book of Acts in an impressively effective way. He successfully negotiates the vexed issue of history and theology and offers a concise, accessible theological twist to every text he considers. His study shows the way in which the narrative text of Acts continues to be compelling for the church's self-understanding and mission."

--Walter Brueggemann, Columbia Theological Seminary

"The book of Acts tells an exciting story that warrants the sort of engagement it is afforded here. Skinner takes us beyond the pedantic concerns of academia to experience the power of the story itself, to participate in its transformations and discoveries. Anyone who is spiritual and/or religious will benefit from this disruptive encounter with 'absurdly good news.'"

--Mark Allan Powell, Trinity Lutheran Seminary

"There is no doubt that Acts is an entertaining read, but what is a twenty-first-century Christian to do with such an unusual collection of stories? Enter Matthew Skinner, an internationally renowned scholar of Acts who has, for decades now, immersed himself in Acts. Skinner grips our attention, all of it, as he honestly and artfully connects our experience with the book of Acts. Chapter by chapter, Skinner teaches us, raises crucial questions--the raw, complex questions that we *real* readers have--and then offers bold conclusions born from his observations as both a scholar and a Christian."

--Jaime Clark-Soles, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University

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