

Paul's initial contact with Jesus is post Easter and pre Gospel. He never seems too interested in telling his churches about what he knew of the human side of Jesus' life: a road to Damascus experience is about as "Christology from above" as you can get. An unchanging Jesus sits better with the divine aspect of Jesus because humanity implies growth and change.

If we have rediscovered the humanity of Jesus we can perhaps hope to glimpse his divinity as Peter and his contemporaries did, as a response to a human life, lived in their community. The communities that produced the Gospels to begin the process of understanding their lives in the context of what Jesus meant to them, used human stories about the way Jesus lived. The stories they give Jesus to say in the Gospels are grounded in the earth and the commonplaces of human existence. Yet both these avenues illuminate facets of the divine in the way Jesus lived.

I imagine the breathtaking way he lived life without a safety net or insurance, not for some bungee jumping self fulfillment, but as a dangerously exposed and open and accepting love, deeply scored the lives of his contemporaries in a way we have been trying to deal with since.

Gerard, you mentioned the dialogue between our contemporary world and a first century Jesus. If Eucharist is working properly it should provide much of what we can glimpse of the divine nature of Christ. Communities of worshippers that commit themselves to each other through Eucharist approach the divine by placing the ordinariness of their humanity on the shared altar and at each other's disposal.