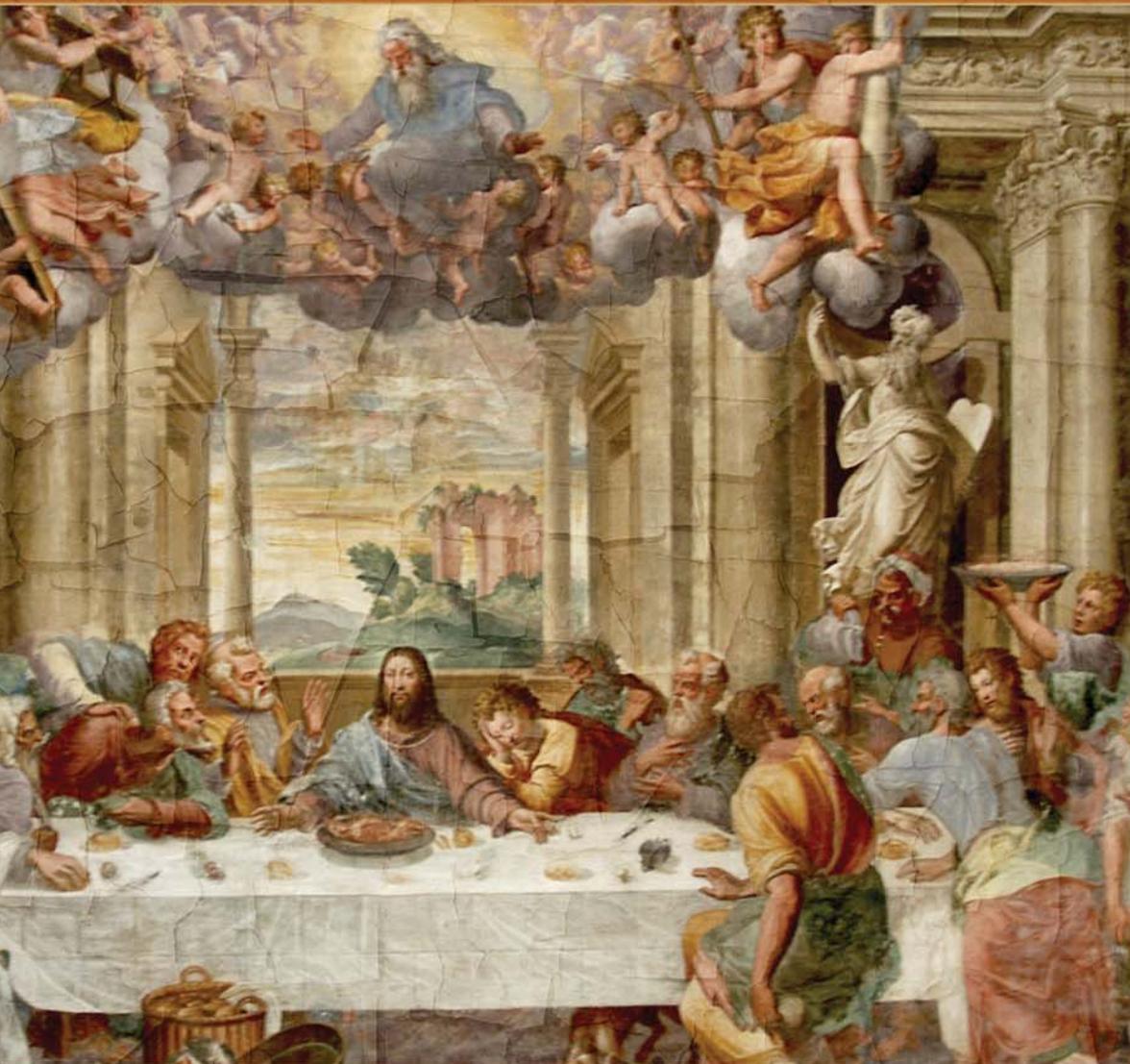


Jesus

THE FINAL JOURNEY



ROBERT E. MACKLIN

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First printing

At the specific preference of the author, PublishAmerica allowed this work to remain exactly as the author intended, verbatim, without editorial input.

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DEDICATION

To LYDIA
...my wife...
my best “sounding board” & my severest critic
with love

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

First, the very great assistance provided by my son, Robert, Jr, whose expertise and encouragement helped me overcome my aversion to working with the computer (I'm just this side of a electric typewriter). Through his perseverance, I was able to work with Lily at PublishAmerica.

Ashley for recognizing the value of what I have to say, and Lily for her patience and understanding in working with this first-time author.

Linda Perry for providing me with a much-needed "new" set of eyes and mind, and Millie Wilson, who reminds me daily, through her unselfish actions, of what Jesus meant by love your neighbor .

Connecticut College for the use of just a few of the marvelous woodcuts of Albrecht Durer from their Wetmore Collection.

Front cover artwork: *Last Supper* fresco by Ottavio Semino, Certosa di Pavia, Italy.

And finally, Zaine Ridling with Great Software List for the use of his grand maps. For what's a journey without maps?

INTRODUCTION

Why did I write this book?

I am not a Theologian nor am I learned in the ways of religion and scripture.

Why?

Because I am an actor and a writer who has been greatly blessed to portray the most beloved man of all time, Jesus...Jesus of Nazareth for over twenty years. I have lived the role of Jesus more than three hundred times, while appearing in my one-man play, ROAD TO BETHANY.

During these portrayals I have rubbed elbows with Jesus, worn his clothing and walked in his sandals. At all times before the presentations and during I call upon the Spirit of Jesus Christ to come to me and He has graciously answered my call. There have been times during performances where thoughts emotions and actions have taken place that did not feel as though they were mine.

For example, once, prior to exiting the stage, I felt this electricity surge through me. Not a great electrical shock, a subdued one, nonetheless evident...a tingling sensation. I realized that I was being shown, physically to a small degree, the feeling that Jesus experienced, and how he would notice the draining of “power” in his body when the woman touched his garment (Luke 8:43-46)

...LUKE 8:43-46...And a woman who had a hemorrhage for twelve years, and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind Him, and touched the fringe of His cloak; and immediately her hemorrhage stopped. And Jesus said, "Who is the one who touched me?" ... "Peter said, "Master, the multitudes are crowding and pressing upon You." But Jesus said, "Someone did touch Me, for I was aware that power had gone out of Me."

The play, ROAD TO BETHANY, is rather straightforward in its presentation, with some exceptions. But it is these exceptions that make the play memorable.

The audience meets Jesus outside Jericho on the road to Bethany on his final journey to Jerusalem and subsequent trials. The introduction to the play allows the audience to go back into the past and join a large "unseen" audience, so that everything that takes place occurs at that moment..."real time". The audience experiences the presence of Jesus in characteristic action for over thirty minutes.

In his conversation with both the seen and "unseen" audience the entire life of Jesus is revealed, from birth through the resurrection. That makes the play interesting and enlightening, but the drama comes when he receives revelations of what is to occur in the coming trial. When that happens he goes into a trance-like state and does and says what is revealed to him. He actually ascends the cross in view of the audience.

I wrote this play to bring to the people of today a small idea, dramatically, of what Jesus experienced at his

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