Encounters With Jesus: Studies In The Gospel Of John

Frances Taylor Gench

This article focuses on the Gospel of John to discover Jesus' understanding of the ministry of women. Is it valid to expect a response on the subject of women in ministry from a document not primarily concerned with this question? Nowhere in John does Jesus explicitly teach about the roles and nature of women. Often we read the stories of Jesus' encounter with women without realizing the radical nature of his actions. However, the accounts would have had a very different impact on the original readers familiar with the culture Jesus was challenging. While study of the Torah was one of man's highest priorities, it was considered a sin for a woman to do the same. Encountering Jesus: Character Studies in the Gospel of John. Second Edition. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014. Cornelis Bennema's considerable literary output includes three books and at least seventeen academic articles, most of which are focused on Johannine studies. The volume under review is a revised version of an original 2009 publication, and is paired with a more theoretical companion volume (A Theory of Character in NT Narrative), itself an expansion of a 2009 article. The bulk of this volume is an investigation into each character by means of the above grid. Bennema begins with Jesus as protagonist, and follows with every character who interacts directly with Jesus.