Foreword by Haddon Willmer

CLIMBING THE SPIRITUAL MOUNTAIN

The Questions of Jesus

ALAN and ELIZABETH DAVEY

Contents

Foreword by H	addon Willmer	vii
Preface ix		
Introduction	xiii	
Abbreviations	xvii	

PART I Preparations for the Ascent

- 1 Our Deepest Choices: "What are you seeking?" | 3
- 2 Our Proclivity to Attachments: "Why do you resist me?" | 12
- 3 The Acceptance of Jesus: "Has no one condemned you?" | 22
- 4 Authentic Relationship with Jesus: "Do you believe this?" | 30

PART II The Challenges of the Climb

- 5 Confronting Our Addictions: "Do you want to be well?" | 43
- 6 Priorities and Comparisons: "Do you love me more than these?" "What is that to you?" | 54
- 7 Spiritual Attentiveness: "How long have I been with you and you do not know me?" | 65
- 8 Hope Within Suffering: "Why are you weeping?" | 76
- 9 The Invitation to Discipleship and Friendship: "Does this offend you?" | 87
- 10 Possessions and Anxiety: "Why do you worry about the rest?" | 99
- 11 Gratitude As Spiritual Discipline: "Were none found to return and give praise to God?" | 110

Enlineraci i ser

PART III Reaching the Summit

- 12 Awareness and Prayer: "Could you not wait with me one hour?" | 123
- 13 The Centrality of Faith and Confidence In God: "If I am able to do it?" | 133
- 14 Completing the Journey with Jesus: "What are you discussing while you walk along?" | 143

entered to the second of the s

reservation of the content of the property of the property of the content of the

Epilogue | 157

Bibliography | 161 The same and the same of the s

Foreword

I like this book because . . .

It fits human beings who are creatures beset by questions shaking and making the foundations, such as:

the in considerance passed policies theories asset topol termony with read our depast

"What is the meaning of life, if there is one?"

"What is a human person, if not a special kind of machine?"

"What is my worth?"

"What is of real value?"

"Are we alone in the universe?"

"Are aliens inevitably hostile?"

"What is there to give thanks for, and to whom?"

I like this book because . . .

It recalls how Jesus engaged with individuals and groups in particular situations of need and decision by asking them questions—sometimes articulating as yet unfocused questions they were already wrestling with, sometimes opening up their imaginations to new questions which stretch horizons.

I like this book because . . .

It is written in the faith that, because Jesus is alive with the Father, he comes to all of us who live later so that, as we read the stories of Jesus in his life on earth, we hear the present Jesus himself asking these questions of us.

I like this book because . . .

The questions Jesus asks are never hostile interrogation intended to destroy us, but rather friendly probing diagnosis, helpful clarification in confusion, encouraging calls for decision and action, open invitation to come into the feasting of the Kingdom of God. The questions spell out the upward call of Jesus Christ so that we are enabled to press on.

I like this book because . . .

I could confidently recommend it to the church house group where I share with friends in thinking, praying, and caring together about faith in life. The chapters are of manageable length, the writing is accessible, not trivial or dumbed down, but also not abstruse or technically obscure. And there are good suggestions for further reflection. A question asked by Jesus and its meaning for life is the nucleus of each chapter, which is enhanced by links with other material, derived, for example, from Alan's climbing in Latin America and Elizabeth's study of Margaret Avison's poetry.

I like this book, although . . .

It makes me foundationally uncomfortable, like the man who cried out to Jesus, "Lord, I believe: help my unbelief." It doesn't leave me with myself, alone. It points, again and again, to Jesus, the author and finisher of faith. It says, "Run with patience, not giving up; climb with hope, even when the summit is in clouds."

I hope you, too, will like this book.

Haddon Willmer
Professor Emeritus of Theology
University of Leeds