well-balanced exposition of these texts makes the best case for the positive contribution of a sound feminist perspective. Each chapter is enriched with discussion questions and additional bibliography. Written for a non-technical but informed lay audience, this is one of the best explanations and orientations to a feminist biblical perspective I have come across.


This thorough and innovative study of Matthew’s gospel by Anders Runesson, professor of New Testament at the University of Oslo, Norway, takes its place alongside a number of recent interpretations that situate Matthew’s gospel in an intra-Jewish rather than a Gentile-Jewish context. That is, Matthew’s community considered itself as thoroughly and essentially Jewish, with its belief in Jesus as the Messiah the culmination of its Jewish faith and identity. Runesson’s focus is on the characteristic passages in Matthew dealing with divine judgment and related condemnation of the Jewish authorities. It is Matthew’s intra-Jewish conflict with these authorities, rather than a Jewish-Gentile polarity, that best explains this motif in the gospel. The ultimate criterion for judgment, both of Israel and in the post-resurrection age for Gentiles, is obedience to the Torah as taught by Jesus. Not all will agree with some aspects of Runesson’s interpretation, but it remains an instructive and significant reading of Matthew in its original Second Temple Jewish context.


This is an unusual yet valuable resource for those who suffer childhood trauma and those who help them heal. Father Kenneth Schmidt is both a pastor and an experienced trauma counselor, and is also co-founder of the Trauma Recovery Program in the Diocese of Kalamazoo, MI. After defining “trauma” and describing its multiple symptoms and effects, Schmidt provides a series of meditations on the scenes of Jesus’ passion geared to helping trauma survivors find healing and inspiration to carry on their lives. This is a valuable resource not only for professionals trained in this area of human experience but for anyone in a pastoral role who is asked to accompany someone with a great burden of suffering.


The New Testament books covered in this helpful introductory study include the nine books beyond the gospels, Acts, and Paul’s letters. They are probably the least read or studied part of the New Testament. Scholz, associate professor at Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, provides a thorough introduction to each in this rich array of texts. Along with an exposition of the canonical texts, he also includes brief surveys of other related extra-canonical texts dated to roughly the last quarter of the first century and into the middle of the second. This can serve as a very