

The following doctoral thesis *Historical Jesus as a Messiah* is aimed at the question of Jesus' Messianism. It contributes to a broad field of study that has at its core this theme and that tries to unravel the unsatisfactory answer if Jesus from Nazareth (or "historical Jesus") considered himself during his earthly life a Messiah. Is it interesting to note that the early Christians, right after Jesus' death, professed him their Lord and Messiah. This "title", which is soon used in relation to Jesus, becomes in its Greek form (Χριστός - "anointed") Jesus' personal name and Christians recognize as their Messiah Jesus Christ. If we realize that the earthly Jesus never used this title as a self attribution, it remains unclear why it played such an important role for the followers of Jesus. The question of why they did not title him "Son of man" arises. As far as that goes, this is the title earthly Jesus identified with. But the decision of the first Christians, who understood Jesus to be God's messenger and a Messiah, has to have a foundation; it cannot merely be an "overvaluation" of his mission. The question remains: why did Jesus hesitate to identify himself as a Messiah? Even though he never said it about himself, we can trace in the synoptic gospels' indications to let us affirm the statement that the historical Jesus through his deeds and words evoked the messianic expectance. How this messianism fits into the messianic expectance of the time of Jesus and where can we find the possible character of Jesus' messianic self-understanding in the gospel tradition? These are the questions that are the subject of the presented study.