THREE REASONS JESUS REMAINS RELEVANT

The Teachings, Passion and Courage of the Canonical Jesus

The Teachings of Jesus

Nonviolence *(Matthew 5:39-40)*
Preferential Option Toward the Poor *(Matthew 5:42; Luke 4:18-19; 6:30; 11:41)*
Enemy love *(Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:27-28);*
Universal Benevolence *(Matthew 5:45; Luke 6:35; Matthew 20:1-26)*
Mercy *(Matthew 5:48 cf. Luke 6:36)*
Forgiveness *(Mark 11:25; Matthew 6:14-15; Luke 6:37)*
Restorative Justice for the Oppressed *(Matthew 23:23; Luke 11:42; 18:7)*
Redistribution of Wealth *(Mark 10.21; Matthew 6:19-34; Luke 12:33-34;)*
Freedom from Anxiety *(Matt. 6:25-30; Luke 12:22-28)*
Healing vs. Condemnation *(Matthew 9:12; Mark 2:17; Luke 5.31; John 3:17)*
Inclusivity *(Mark 9:38-41; Luke 9:49-50)*
A Shared Table *(Mark 2:16; Luke 14:12-14)*
Compassion *(Matthew 15:32; Mark 6:34; Luke 7:13)*

The Passion of Jesus

Luke 4:18-19—The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, [Prison-Blindness] to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

The Courage of Jesus

Mark 3.6—Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might **kill** Jesus.

Mark 8, 9, 10 – Predications

Domination Systems (Pyramids)
Religious Legitimization (Temple)

"That the world may be healed." — John 3.17
All Texts Quoted from the NRSV Unless Otherwise Noted

Zechariah 9.10 —I will take away the war chariots from Ephraim and the warhorses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations.

Mark 11.17—And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it 'a den of robbers [insurrectionists].'"

Jeremiah 7.9—Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name, and say, "We are safe"—safe to do all these detestable things?

The reason Jesus died.

The Gospel of the book of Acts

Acts 5:30—The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross.

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Mark 11.7-10—When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. (Zechariah 9.9-10)

Mark 11:11—Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

Mark 12.12—When they realized that he had told this parable **against them**, they wanted to arrest him, **but they feared the crowd**.

Mark 15.37-39—With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!" (cf. Matthew 27:51; Luke 23.45)

Mark 16.4-8—But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

Luke 24:5-6—"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"

Acts 13:32-33—We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus.

Modern Pyramids With Religious Legitimization

Jesus' Teachings (Versus Belief in Story Details)

The Passion of Jesus — The Heart of the Universe

Courage of Jesus — Steps toward a Shared Table. (Still Recruiting)

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