

A Sermon on Easter

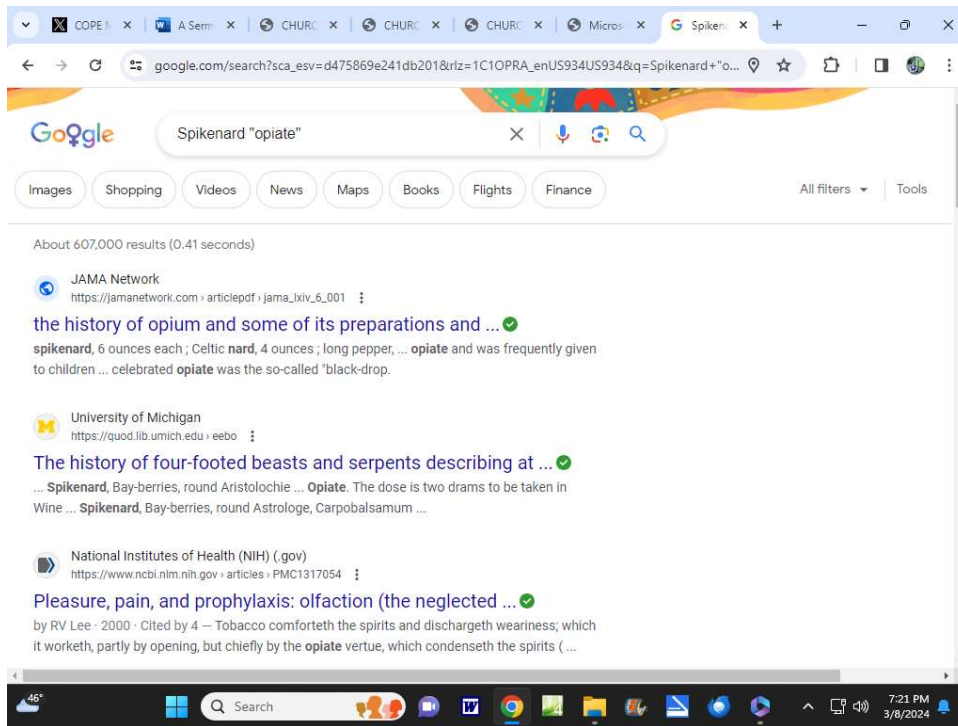
Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for March 31st, 2024 (and beyond)

In some ways this builds upon last week's service and offers some correction to the April 4th, 2021 service. In the April 4th, 2021 sermon (<https://www.cope.church/cgmeastersermon.pdf>) there were some factual errors. It is true that vinegar kills some bacteria and viruses, but it can also kill people. I said in that sermon that dressing or attending Jesus' wounds or ailments with vinegar saved his life as one possible theory regarding how he survived crucifixion and didn't die from it. Many people have died from vinegar intake. Sources: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27421692/> <https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/caregiver-acquitted-accidental-vinegar-death-spokane/PT7RN3HQUNDTFKTCORC5GWJ2VI/> <https://www.scmp.com/article/406155/two-dead-after-boiling-white-vinegar> <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/mar/06/woman-accidentally-kills-herself-drinking-vinegar-abort-pregnancy> <https://www.wave3.com/story/16912109/coroner-boys-death-ruled-a-homicide-from-ingesting-vinegar/>

“Vinegar dehydrates the body on a deep, deep organ level, and when you're cleansing, you don't want to dehydrate the body. Vinegar preserves poisons, trapping them in your organs—and not so that it can then drive them out of your body.” Source: <https://www.medicalmedium.com/blog/vinegar-reality-check>

That being said, dehydration can result in loss of consciousness. Source: <https://www.news-medical.net/health/Dehydration-Symptoms.aspx> Vinegar causes dehydration which can result in a loss of consciousness. So, the theory that Jesus didn't die and therefore wasn't resurrected from the dead, but merely regained consciousness is still plausible and possible.

Another supportive argument for loss of consciousness via a drug-induced coma, as a result of Mary providing Spikenard to Jesus during the crucifixion, is supported by citations and information provided in last week's sermon which is available at <https://www.cope.church/smellsermon.pdf>.



Opiates can cause drug-induced comas. Source: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/drugs-supplements/opium-oral-route/side-effects/drg-20074064>

In addition, some see the Holy Bible as a code or riddle. Some may read it as a guide for how to drug subjects into suggestible and/or controllable states. Others may respond to that by criminalizing sale and use of said substances, recognizing them as a threat to freedom and free will. Philo of Tarsus was a church deacon and the opiate containing Spikenard was named for him (Philonium Romanorum). It is considered a controlled substance in the US. “The Justice Department announced today that YOUNG LIVING ESSENTIAL OILS, L.C., (the Company), headquartered in Lehi, Utah, pleaded guilty in federal court to federal misdemeanor charges regarding its illegal trafficking of rosewood oil and spikenard oil in violation of the Lacey Act and the Endangered Species Act.” source: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/essential-oils-company-sentenced-lacey-act-and-endangered-species-act-violations-pay-760000>

Do you believe it is possible Jesus was in a drug-induced or dehydration-caused coma from which he woke after 3 days of rest? Exodus 21:20-22. If Jesus was a slave, as a result of his status as a convict, does he remain church property if he was able to walk after a few days? Could the Holy Bible be interpreted by those convicted of crime now as evidence that they are like Jesus? If so, are they to be drugged and/or beaten into submission or upon death propagandized to reinforce the arguably corrupt system they died protesting? Could someone who studied the bible become self-righteous and indignant assuming divine purpose for their actions regardless of fallible and alterable governments that recognize their equality and humanity at law which they may reject assuming a divine calling?

Or, might some interpret scripture to say that Jesus too was fallible, human, and subject to the same laws governing everyone else regardless of any justification he or anyone feels he had in any crimes for which he was convicted? The Holy Roman Empire claims he submitted and assimilated becoming the source of their power and pride. If they supplied the opiates, was Jesus unduly influenced as well as co-opted to serve their ends? Human traffickers engaging in modern slavery use illicit substances to recruit, subdue, and control their victims. Source:

<https://www.antitraffickingreview.org/index.php/atrjournal/article/view/615/480> A Catholic Priest was arrested for trafficking illicit drugs: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1988/06/17/priest-arrested-as-drug-trafficker/2176fc44-da11-45ad-89f6-f13239bbe636/> For more on Catholicism's role in slavery, see <https://amsterdamnews.com/news/2018/09/18/major-role-catholic-church-played-slavery/>

Regardless of whether you accept the sacrifice of others, including Jesus, as a necessary evil from which you and/or many may benefit, isn't it a mockery of the disadvantaged to claim to worship those you directly or indirectly sacrifice for personal or political gain? Is said mockery compounded by promoting saviorism as a means to induce voluntary sacrifice and glorification of illegal conduct? For what I mean by "saviorism", see <https://www.cope.church/saviorsermon.pdf> .

I listen and I understand, but I don't always agree and imagine you may feel the same way. My overall point this Easter is that it is possible and potentially even likely that Jesus did not die as reported nor resurrected as a result. And, now here's #TaoFu Joker...

#TaoFu Joker says: So, you want me to worship a criminal who died rather than turning his friends in and live as he lived to prove I'm pious?

#TaoFu Riddler says: He was justified and wrongly convicted. He was a good guy and took the punishment alone rather than testifying against his friends.

#TaoFu Harvey Dent says: If I were his defense attorney, I'd wonder who his friends are and who supplied him with drugs. Even if the prosecutor, I'd really want to know who drugged and/or coerced him into a life of servitude.

END DIALOGUE

I still love Jesus. The above doesn't change that. I love Jesus the humanitarian who justifiably and extrajudicially killed people who raped children. I love Jesus the humanitarian who fed the hungry, comforted the sick, and provided hope to the disadvantaged. I also live in a country where raping children is a felony that doesn't currently result in the death penalty officially, though often those who interpret scripture similarly, extrajudicially exact the death penalty at times in good faith where the law refuses to do so. I find their choice inspired, even if arguably too self-sacrificial on their part because someone who would so exact is in a way following Jesus' example and such reinforces my own understanding of scripture while also inspiring me to examine it more.

Happy Easter!

For those interested in starting #TaoFu Self-Defense Exercises, please see <https://www.cope.church/taofu.htm> and begin at any time.

There are opportunities to send messages, receive mystery bonus blessings, and more with or without donating available now on our "Pass the Basket" page at <https://www.cope.church/basket.htm> . Thank You.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32 KJV Willful blindness is an abomination.

COPE accepts Feedback, critical and complimentary. Learn more at <https://www.cope.church/feedback.htm> . For the sake of keeping myself and others humble, a sense of humor is welcome on all sides.