

A Sermon on Radical Jesus

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for March 14th, 2021 (and beyond)

It is my hope everyone receiving this sermon is familiar with the story of the life, times, and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. If not, please go to your nearest library (virtual libraries are fine) to borrow a copy of The Holy Bible (Wycliffe or King James or Standard are all fine, some are available here: <https://www.bible.com/bible/1/MAT.1.KJV>) and read the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John before proceeding. It may help if you also read the books of Acts and Romans if not otherwise familiar with the story.

This is an alternative interpretation of Jesus' life story as may be understood as accurate depending on perspective of the reader. Mary got pregnant/conceived out of wedlock, but Joseph married her anyway. They were exiled from their home and on the run because it was illegal to have sex outside of marriage at the time. They had no money. They sought shelter and a safe place to give birth. Someone finally was nice enough to let them sleep in the barn with the farm animals where Mary gave birth to Jesus.

Three wealthy foreigners show up at the birth with interest in the child and with gifts for the family. They convince the poor couple that their child is special and different from all the other children. And, then take the child away on his 13th birthday to live with them though he returns many years later on a mission. The injustice and scorn he suffered being conceived out of wedlock with the reputation of the exiled following he and his family everywhere, even though they do honest carpentry work building things for the affluent not completely unlike pyramids, without the appreciation and respect he and his family deserve, results in his decision to revolt.

The revolt doesn't work out so well and Jesus takes the fall for everyone that participated rather than turning in his friends or co-conspirators. Jesus and his friends honestly believed they were hunting and killing child rapists and so helping law enforcement rather than violating the law. If there were any "Wanted" posters at the time where reward was given for a suspect whether returned dead or alive, then surely that would have been admissible at trial and if not, I think many would agree it was a "Kangaroo Court" and bullshit that he was given the death penalty by crucifixion. Even Rome disagreed with it according to the records available.

But, even though you can destroy the body of Christ the Messenger, you can't kill the message itself or haven't yet and it is truly a good book. You won't ever eradicate it entirely. The reason is the stories in the Bible are universal and have many ways to interpret and understand them in context of the times and completely out of context. You can read it as morality plays and stories that teach truth and virtue while providing likely outcomes of battles between foes where sometimes the good guys are martyred and don't make it. But, you still know who was good if considering full context. Or, you can look at it as a magic book that you wish on, rarely if ever actually open and read, and fear a little as a result of your own ignorance. You can use it to teach religion (commitment to honest living, truth, and virtue) or to control ignorant people through idolatry and superstition suggesting everyone ignore Jesus' moment of doubt, and his wrathful

disruption at the temple or arguable murder of "long pigs" (humans) whom he referred to as swine possessed by demons and forced them to commit mass suicide by jumping off a cliff, while claiming he was always the Prince of Peace and flawless. And, he told his friends ahead of time in code to deny they ever knew him, he commanded it. Of course, they said they'd never deny knowing him, but when it came time they did just that. Except for Judas Iscariot who knew the movement needed money to continue so turned Jesus in (for the reward of 30 pieces of Silver) who was all ready to take the fall and cover for everyone at the time. Mary Magdalene then took the 30 pieces of silver she found near Judas' body (he hanged himself supposedly) and in the middle of the night they took Jesus off the cross and replaced him with Judas. Jesus then went into witness protection.

An alternative to that or variation of it would be that they all planned to save Jesus and themselves at the same time but needed a body that resembled Jesus to do the switcheroo on the cross so everyone believed him to be dead who wished that were the case. So, Judas volunteered because of the resemblance and sacrificed himself for the cause. They say it was suicide and people assume it was guilt over the reward money, but it was all part of a plan to save Jesus from people not ready for his message. Judas sacrificed himself to save Jesus. And, the reward money was used to pay off the guards so they could make the switch.

With the alternate endings above aside, Jesus never believed he was flawless, he encouraged everyone to self-examine and he did that while on the cross which is why he had his moment of doubt and that's the moment he realized it was possible the three foreigners were actually trying to stir up an insurrection and the Romans and Jews suspected each other for a while and now it looks like agent provocateurs are at it again with a very similar game. What's interesting is that the CIA has provided information to the public on how to spot agent provocateurs and counterintelligence operatives. You can find copies of two of their guides at <https://www.cope.church/cointel1.pdf> and <https://www.cope.church/cointel2.pdf>. In addition, if you are more of an alternative "off the grid" type, you may be interested in the warning signs of what to look for in the article at <https://www.cope.church/cointel3.pdf>. A lot of the warning signs on what to look for match the description of the three who brought gifts to the young would-be-bastard (but for Joseph's honorable intentions and actions) that convinced them to revolt.

My goal with this sermon is to provide another way to get something out of Jesus' story that may apply to homeland security and help everyone find compassion for prodigal sons/daughters/children/family/etc. Radicalization is a choice unless coercive thought reform (AKA brainwashing/undue influence) exploiting the ignorance of the under-privileged is at play. Then, whoever is responsible for the coercive thought reform and/or ignorance is culpable. At the time, very few people could read and write. It was illegal to teach some to read and write. Who criminalized education? They did. And, what country makes truancy (not being educated) a crime punishable with jail time in some jurisdictions today? USA. Is the threat of punishment with jail time if you refuse formal education coercive? If so, are you okay with the alternative, which may mean expanding the prison population or utter chaos that someone will inevitably organize enough for

civilization to resume again after a lot of death and destruction based on prejudice, ignorance, potential foreign/undue influence and hate?

I love the CIA and am fond of all branches of law enforcement and the US Military. It is very unsettling that the guides for how to spot foreign agents is public because it seems almost like a cry for help where the CIA is like "We just have to make this public and maybe the people will have a better chance at protecting themselves if they know how to spot one so they can help more with homeland security because the internet has really been a game-changer. For the love of God and Country, read the guides." Do your part.

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.

For More About COPE and the HEAL Mission, see:

<https://www.cope.church> and <https://www.heal-online.org>