

When DARKNESS FALLS

INVESTIGATING RELIGION'S HISTORY OF EVIL

Part 2: The Crusades

INTRODUCTION – Explaining Away Jesus

Matthew 5:38-48; Luke 10:29-37

Jesus non-violent teaching is explained by the Crusading Church as:

- an ethic for _____ only;
- an ideal for the _____;
- an ethic for one's _____ life, but not one's civic life;
- an inner _____, different from one's actions.

HORROR OF HISTORY: From "Just War" To "Holy War"

CRUSADE MOTIVATIONS...

1. Overcoming Christian division/wars.

2. Defending/Rescuing persecuted Christians.

1 Corinthians 10:31

3. Recapturing Jerusalem for Jesus.

4. To exact God's wrath upon the deserving heathen.

Romans 13:1-7 VS. Romans 12:14-21

5. To achieve forgiveness and salvation.

ADDED DISASTERS...

- Peasants & Children Crusades
- Jewish Massacres
- Christian Massacres

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS: Rescuing The "Holy Land"

John 18:36

Through Christ, God's Kingdom moves from being a _____ Kingdom to being an _____ Kingdom. *Holy geography now gives way to sanctified community.* His Kingdom is now one of networked/connected *relationships* rather than special holy space.

Matthew 18:20

The "holy land" of Christ's Kingdom is the _____ between us.

Luke 17:20-21; 1 Peter 2:9

CONCLUSION – Loving Like Jesus

Luke 6:27-28

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

- After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged, encouraged, or perplexed you.
- Explore and discuss any or all of these quotes: **a) Menno Simons:** *Tell me, how can a Christian defend Scripturally retaliation, rebellion, war, striking, slaying, torturing, stealing, robbing and plundering and burning cities, and conquering countries?* **b) Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer:** *Jesus challenged and was executed by the domination system of his time; many Christians today proclaim the Christ of faith while conforming to, embracing, and receiving rewards from the domination system of our time. Jesus invites us out of that domination system and into an alternative community where abundant life is experienced.* **c) Rev. James Bevel (1960's Civil Rights Activist):** *It is not enough to defeat our oppressors – we want to convert them! We cannot win by hating our oppressors. We have to love them into changing.*

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

- Read Peter's practical words to the Church in **1 Peter 2**. a) What verse stands out to you the most? Why? b) Consider this passage in its first-century context. What aspects of Peter's teaching would have been at odds with the religious institutions of his day? c) Look through this passage for as many examples as you can find of ways Peter's teaching might be at odds with the institutional Church during the Crusade years. d) In what ways might some of Peter's teaching still be at odds with the Church today? e) In what ways might Peter's teaching be at odds with your own tendencies?

SO WHAT?...

- Take a few moments (2-3 minutes) to meditate on the verse in **1 Peter 2** that you mentioned in 3-a standing out to you the most. Focus your thought on how it would look if it were fully applied and lived out in *your* life. (If you like, after meditating share any new insights or old reminders that have come to mind.)
- Read over **Luke 6:27-28**. Talk about those relationships you need to grow more Christ-like in and pray for each other about this and your answer to 3-e above.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, October 3 / 10, 2004