

(2-9-20)

SUPERSTAR

CHRISTIANITY?

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TEXT: Ecclesiastes 9:1 For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God: no man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them.

2 All things come alike to all: there is one event to the righteous, and to the wicked...

11...but time and chance happeneth to them all.

15 Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered that same poor man.

"Stop Idolizing Christian Celebrities...some Christians settle for a leader's personal brand of Christ, valuing the preacher more than the Word itself..."

(Huffington Post, March 11, 2018; Brandi Miller)

"Given the reality that white, able-bodied and cisgendered [straight, normal] men have the most cultural access to pulpits in the U.S., it becomes a problem when their ideas of Jesus are in turn afforded the most cultural validity. And people of color, **the LGBTQ+ community** and other marginalized groups aren't given an authoritative voice within the faith."

(*Huffington Post*, March 11, 2018; Brandi Miller)

-*J....C....Superstar* was a 1970 rock opera (with lyrics by Tim Rice).

"Judas did not think of himself as a traitor. He did what he did...because he was intelligent. He could see Christ becoming something he considered harmful to the Jews...people began switching their attentions from what Christ was saying to Christ himself. They were saying that Jesus is God..."

(*Superstar* lyricist, Tim Rice)

"...the title of the opera is snide, sarcastic, angry, representing Judas' point of view, the idea that Jesus had become a 'superstar,' a shallow, hyped personality...The title...embodies the reason for Judas' betrayal - the 'superstardom'..." (Scott Miller, *S., Drugs, Rock & Roll, and Musicals*, 2011)

John 12:17 The people therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record.

19 The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? **behold, the world is gone after him.**

John 11:47 Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles.

48 If we let him thus alone, **all men will believe on him:** and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.

53 Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.

Matthew 21:15 And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David; **they were sore displeased,**

Proverbs 30:8 Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

9 Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? **or lest I be poor,** and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; **be instant** in season, **out of season;** reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears...

Numbers 11:27 And there ran a young man, and told Moses, and said, Eldad and Medad do prophesy in the camp.

28 And **Joshua** the son of Nun, the servant of Moses, one of his **young men**, answered and said, My lord Moses, **forbid them**.

29 And Moses said unto him, **Enviest thou for my sake?** would God that all the LORD'S people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit upon them!

Philippians 1:18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

Acts 8:9 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:

10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God...

1 Samuel 17:28 And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? **I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart;** for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

Mark 3:20 And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread.

21 And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, **He is beside himself**.

1 Samuel 8:5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

7 And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for **they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me**, that I should not reign over them.

8...they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.

1 Samuel 10:24...And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king.
26 And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched.

27 But **the children of Belial** said, **How shall this man save us? And they despised him**, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.

Psalms 15:1 LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

3 He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.

4 **In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD.** He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.

Esther 3:2 And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But **Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence.**

Psalms 119:63 I am a companion of all them that fear thee...

James 2:2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

Daniel 12:3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

Jeremiah 23:14 I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: **they strengthen also the hands of evildoers**, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah.

22 But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, **then they should have turned them from their evil way**, and from the evil of their doings.

Psalms 101:4 A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked

person.