

**Was Jesus A Socialist?** By John T. Polk II

**QUESTION:** What has caused so much rioting?

**REPLY:** What began as peaceful protests were commandeered by paid, organized gangsters who steered the crowd into a vicious riot. After days of destruction and stealing from businesses (both large and small!) in many American cities, the question comes back: Why?

1) According to the political doctrine of Karl Marxism, all humanity is divided economically along lines of the "haves" and the "have-nots." Everything Communists say and do will emphasize this distinction and magnify "class envy." Jesus identified one man's "class envy" of his brother's inheritance as "covetousness," which He then condemned (**Luke 12:13-21**; **Galatians 5:19-21**). The only "solutions" Communists offer and encourage the "have-nots" to use are violence, rioting, and bloodshed, the very sort of things Barabbas had engaged in (**Mark 15:6-7**; **Luke 23:18-19**; **John 18:40**). And, as in the case with Barabbas, governments, as represented in Pilate, seem to want Barabbas' on their streets rather than those who preach and teach Jesus Christ!

2) According to the Gospel viewpoint, however, Jesus Christ came to give His life a "ransom for many" (**Matthew 26:26-29**), and this Gospel should be preached to "every creature" (**Mark 16:15-16**), of every "skin color." Not until one has been "buried with Him through baptism into death" (**Romans 6:3-5**) can salvation occur and service to Christ begin. In serving the Lord Christ, those Christians who are "rich in this present age" should trust in God, not material wealth,

and learn to "do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share" (**1 Timothy 6:17-19**). However, those Christians who suffer "in deep poverty" should also "abound in the riches of their liberality" because they, too, should first give themselves to the Lord (**2 Corinthians 8:1-5**). According to **2 Corinthians 9:6-11**, God's grace will supply our needs when we supply our possessions for His use! "For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have." (**2 Corinthians 8:12**)

Christians do not mourn over what they do not have, nor become prideful in what they do have, because what one has or doesn't have is not as important as each one's willingness to serve God! In the churches of Christ, therefore, "class envy" (a.k.a. "covetousness") should not exist! Certainly rioting, violence, and bloodshed are no part of the solution for a Christian. Those who follow the Marxist/ Communist doctrine become criminal to any society seeking to abide by godly principles. "Preach the word" (**2 Timothy 3:16-4:4**), even to Marxists/ Communists and all those they use for their evil purposes, for "if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch" (**Matthew 15:14**). ---- jtpll

**Free Article: "Christ vs Marx"**

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**Salted Speech Colossians 4:6**

- ~You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
- ~ An ounce of fact means more than a ton of argument.
- ~ Gossip—The halitosis of the mind.
- ~ A juvenile delinquent is a youngster who has been given a freehand . . . but not in the proper place.
- ~ You attitude will determine the altitude of your achievements in life

# The Old Versus the New System of Sacrifice

| OLD SYSTEM OF SACRIFICE                                      | NEW SYSTEM OF SACRIFICE                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • <b>Was temporary</b> (Hebrews 8:13)                        | • <b>Is permanent</b> (Hebrews 7:21)                                   |
| • <b>Aaron first high priest</b> (Lev. 16:32)                | • <b>Jesus only High Priest</b> (Hebrews 4:14)                         |
| • <b>From tribe of Levi</b> (Hebrews 7:5)                    | • <b>From tribe of Judah</b> (Hebrews 7:14)                            |
| • <b>Ministered on earth</b> (Hebrews 8:4)                   | • <b>Ministers in Heaven</b> (Hebrews 8:1,2)                           |
| • <b>Used blood of animals</b> (Lev. 16:15)                  | • <b>Uses blood of Christ</b> (Hebrews 10:4-12)                        |
| • <b>Required many sacrifices</b><br>(Hebrews 10:1-3)        | • <b>Requires one sacrifice</b> (Hebrews 9:28)                         |
| • <b>Needed perfect animals</b> (Lev. 22:19)                 | • <b>Needs a perfect life</b> (Hebrews 5:9)                            |
| • <b>Required careful approach to Tabernacle</b> (Lev. 16:2) | • <b>Encourages confident approach to throne of God</b> (Hebrews 4:16) |
| • <b>Looked forward to new system</b><br>(Hebrews 10:1)      | • <b>Sets aside old system</b> (Hebrews 10:9)                          |

Barnes' Bible Charts

Why you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?

Matthew 7:3



## Can You Say, "Jesus Christ, My Lord"?

In Rom. 5:21, Paul states that eternal life is through "Jesus Christ our Lord." That threefold name of our Savior is an interesting progression that we must go through to truly have salvation in Him.

**Jesus.** Jesus was His given name. Although it means "Savior" we have to remember that it was a very common name in first-century Palestine. "Jesus" was the Greek form of the Hebrew name "Joshua." It was very popular because of the old Testament hero of that name. Most people believe that there was a man named Jesus in first-century times who was a great teacher. When she was alive, the world's most noted atheist, Madalyn Murray O'Hair, even admitted that Jesus existed. To believe that a man named Jesus walked the earth is good, but that is not enough to save.

**Christ.** Christ is His title. "Christ" means "anointed one." This reveals that He is the One anointed by the Father to die for mankind. He is the promised Messiah. Jesus Christ is the One who bore our sins on the cross (1 Pet. 2:24). To believe this is to affirm what Peter did in Matt 16:16, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Many people believe that Jesus died for them, but that does not automatically make them saved (cf. Matt. 7:21). Certainly accepting Him as the Savior is an important step toward being saved, but one must still go one step further.

**Lord.** Lord designates Jesus as our Divine Master. Calling Jesus "Lord" means that we recognize Him as having complete control over all of our lives. It means becoming a faithful servant to Him. It means dedicating our whole lives to doing things in His name. It requires sacrifice and commitment. Many want Jesus as a Friend and Savior (Christ), but not a Lord. But that's what it takes to be saved in His name. Eternal life is in "Jesus Christ our Lord." Jesus Himself asked, "why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). By the way, this includes baptism for the remission of sins as a part of His plan of salvation (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 19:5).

So, can you really call Him "*Jesus Christ my Lord*"? You must if you are to be saved.

- Edd Sterchi