

DVD: Jesus the Complete Story: The Last Days.

Why does it seem as though Jesus was "asking for trouble" in the days before his death?

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- The crucifixion is mentioned 80 times in the bible and by Josephus.
- He could have avoided trouble – but he did not.
  - He would have known about crucifixions
  - He gathered disciples that put him on a collision course with religious leaders.
    - He cured, forgave and welcomed enemies!
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- Jesus chose to take his message to Jerusalem / rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and entered the Temple.
  - Protested the injustices of the Temple system.
  - No one seemed to stop him.
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- Passover in Jerusalem
  - Huge symbolism for Jews: slavery to freedom.
  - "Last supper" Not like the picture of DaVinci
    - "triclinium" a three sided table
    - left side of table is most important side of table.
    - Reclining to eat your eat your mail.
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- What about Judas?
  - His departure was not seen as unusual. Was he doing Jesus' will.
- Garden of Gethsemane:
  - Disciples fell asleep.
  - Lk: Jesus = a man in crisis. AGONY!
    - Sweating blood? This could have been a real experience.
    - Doctors many have seen others sweating blood when confronted with extreme stress or death.
    - Jesus knew his end was near! Yikes! Extreme stress!
  - Judas gets the heat for betraying Jesus.
    - Could it be that betrayal is a mistranslation of "hand over?"
    - Did Jesus choose Judas to hand him over? Hmmm

## People got paid for "handing people over"

- Jesus did not escape when he could have!
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- Caiaphas:
  - Had final say of who could enter the Temple.
  - Jerusalem would have been jammed packed.
  - How to make Jesus look like a criminal → blasphemy and political leader.
  - Stoning vs Crucifixion!
    - Jews not allowed to crucify, but they could stone someone
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- Crucifixion. → commemorated in many cultures in many ways.
  - What about the nails?
    - Jesus could have been nailed in the hands, depending on whether or not his feet/buttocks were supported.
    - Evidence suggests Jesus legs may have been supported. (found bones of a crucified person!)
    - Man could be on a cross for days.
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  - What about the cross?
    - Up to 500 rebels would have been crucified a day
    - Trees could have been used as crosses.
  - Sponge?
  - Mocking? Total POWERLESSNESS!
  - Mary and Followers? Seems like humiliating failure
- Death/suffering leads to salvation? Seems so strange!
  - God defeats evil by letting it do its worse, so that through Jesus' suffering the force of evil would be exhausted!
  - Cry out to God. Is Jesus frustrated? In a dialogue with God.
    - Shows the closeness of Jesus and God the Father.
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- It seems as though crucifixion means the movement ends!
  - Yet it is not over. Why not?
  - The crucifixion was not the end of the story.
  - What was area like around the crucifixion.
    - Perhaps an old quarry outside the city walls

- Found tombs from the 1<sup>st</sup> cen.
  - Church now stands on the site.
  - Perhaps Jesus was crucified in a quarry outside the city walls.
- What about the Resurrection?
  - The heart of Christianity! An expression of belief!
  - Billions of people believe in it
  - What about evidence? Resurrection accounts.
    - Road to Emmaus.
    - Could this have been hallucinations?
    - Disciples seeing Jesus is not typical: they at first do not recognize Jesus!
    - Plus! Women are witnesses! How strange! Not likely for this to be made up.
    - Gospels say women came to visit tomb
    - Is there a rational explanation for the empty tomb
      - Was body not taken down? (eaten by animals)
      - Was the body stolen and simulate a resurrection
      - Was Jesus still alive? (mandrake: hiazine renders people dead like) Idea is flawed....Jesus was beat up before, plus Romans were expert executioners.
    - A matter of faith...comes from the human heart. Do not reduce it to the minimum → reason.
    - Without belief of resurrection, hard to belief the existence of the early church.



