

Campus Chronicles



Volume 1

Edition 9

The Message

by Sonia Kotko

"I know very well how foolish the message of the cross sounds to those who are on the road to destruction" (1 Corinthians 1:18 NLT).

Drew couldn't wait to get home from camping with Grandpa. He had a story to tell to his friend Bernadette.

"You should have been there!" Drew exclaimed loudly.

"Been where?" Bernadette asked, while combing her hair.

Drew explained. "My Grandpa took me camping last weekend. It was so cool. You should have seen the fish I caught."

"I've seen fish," Bernadette said.

"No, you just don't understand. These were real cool. When they swallowed the bait they swam hard to get away. They pulled the line to the left and then to the right. It felt as if they would yank you right out of the boat and make you swim with them."

Bernadette rolled her shoulders. "They just go left and right. What a waste of time on waiting for them to bite. They're just fish."

Drew's enthusiasm slipped away. "All I can tell you is that it was really cool," he said with a sigh. "If you were there with me, you would think so too."

Has this ever happened to you when you tried to share an experience with someone – and they just don't get it? How did it make you feel? Frustrated, to say the least. It may not make sense to them since they didn't get to experience it.



Library Hint:
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**Heard of Bart D. Ehrman?
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It can be like this when we speak to people about Jesus. We are to be prepared to share our faith with anyone, but at times our explanation of Jesus and what he's done in our life can sound strange. When you tell people about whom Jesus is, some will just blow you off, laugh at you, or just not understand.

This is what Paul was explaining: The message of Jesus, which is very powerful to believers, sounds like nonsense to others.

Do not become discouraged. Share the Word of God with confidence. The Holy Spirit will use your words. Besides, it's not up to you to change someone's heart. So be committed in telling what God has done in your life, believing faithfully that God will use your testimony to bring glory and honor to Him.

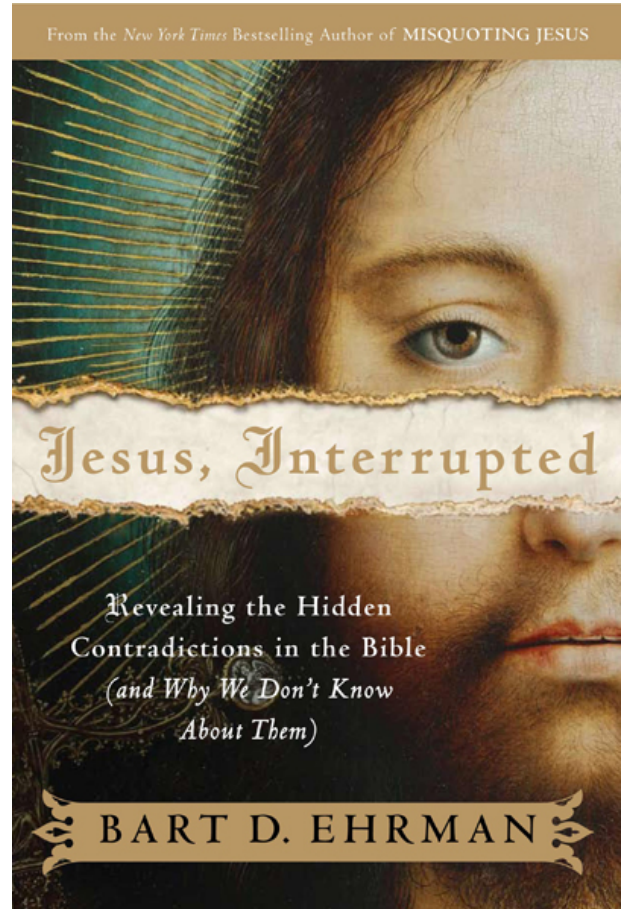
Jesus, Interrupted?

By Cassandra Friday

This past week, I was in Barnes and Noble in the Christianity section, and I found the book *Jesus, Interrupted: Revealing the Hidden Contradictions in the Bible (And Why We Don't Know About Them)* by Bart D. Ehrman. I started leafing through it and came across the second chapter, where the author points out that there is a contradiction between the accounts in Mark and John about the timing of Jesus' death. The next thing you know, I'm sitting on the floor of the bookstore with this book open along with two different versions of the Bible to compare notes. Ehrman jumps on John 19:14 (NIV), "It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour." This time reference comes when Jesus is in front of Pilate, right before he is sentenced to crucifixion.

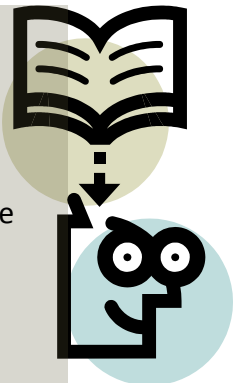
Allow me to give a little history. It is important to note that the Jews consider Saturday the Sabbath Day, their days were from sundown to sundown (not midnight to midnight), and Passover was celebrated the day before the Sabbath. Therefore, Thursday night (after sundown, technically their Friday) is when the Passover meal is eaten. Friday, during the day, was the day of Passover and the day of Preparation for the Sabbath; and the Sabbath would begin at sundown that night (technically their Saturday). Tradition holds that Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples (Last Supper) Thursday night, was arrested, tried, and condemned overnight, and then crucified on Friday (Passover).

Mark follows this exact timeline in his account. "It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath)" (Mark 15:42). He states this right after Jesus dies on the cross, and before he is taken down for burial. From Mark's account, it is clear Jesus died on Friday. In *Jesus, Interrupted*, Ehrman claims that because of John 19:14, John is saying that Jesus was crucified a day earlier, on Thursday, the day of Preparation for the Passover when the lambs are slaughtered. At first glance, that is what it looks like. I was baffled until I really looked at John's entire account.



Library Hint:

Did you know that if you find something in the online catalog and the letters PAM precede the call numbers, that the item is a pamphlet? If you wish to use a pamphlet simply ask one of the librarians and she will be happy to retrieve it for you.



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What Good Is It? By R.J. Young

“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” (James 2:14-17 NIV)



I once heard this analogy from a youth pastor: Imagine that I’m in an airplane. The door is open, and I have a parachute on. I know how to sky dive. I packed my own shoot. I am 100% positive that when I jump, I can pull the cord, and land safely on the ground. I jump. I fall. I fail to pull the cord. I have complete faith that pulling the cord will save my life, yet I do nothing. What good is my faith in that cord, or the parachute?

In the King James Version, James simply states, “Faith without works is dead.” Works cannot ensure your salvation, but without them, what good is your faith? Just as I can have all the faith in the world in my parachute, it is meaningless unless I act on it. Will you plummet to the ground? Or will you pull the cord that demonstrates your faith?



Are you ready for the Winter Quarter?



First, John 13:1-2 states, “It was just before the Passover Feast...the evening meal was being served...” This time reference refers to Thursday. The evening meal was the Passover, even though John doesn’t name it as such. Honestly, he had stated it a couple sentences earlier, he probably didn’t feel the need; “evening meal” was self-explanatory. Then after Jesus died and before he is buried, John wrote, “Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath” (19:31). From these two time references, John is also saying that Jesus died on Friday. However, right in between, there’s John 19:14, “It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week.” Would this be a contradiction? Actually, NO!

It doesn’t say that it was the day of Preparation for Passover; it says it was the day of Preparation of Passover Week. There’s a huge difference. Day of Preparation for the Jews was always the day before the Sabbath. John is simply stating that it is Passover Week: which aligns with the entire account in John. Therefore, Ehrman takes this verse completely out of context by conveniently not mentioning John’s other time references before and after this verse, as well as misinterpreting it altogether.

Jesus, Interrupted may be a published New York Times bestseller, and Ehrman may be considered a “Bible expert,” but, in my opinion, this book only contains lies from a bitter man fighting with God. Jesus said himself, “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves” (Matthew 7:15). Don’t be fooled by a pretty cover and intelligent writing skills, but “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

EPIC Miracle Makeover

Praise God, the blueprints for our remodel are complete! Those blueprints will be going to the county for review this week. We will keep you posted on the timeline for completion. So, continue to keep our Miracle Makeover in your prayers.

*In His Service,
Ron Harden*



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