



**January 27, 2025**

### **What Would Jesus Do?**

I have been wondering this week, as I watched the inauguration of President Trump and all the actions he has taken since then, what would Jesus do?

When Bob and Judy McQuilkin led our church tour to Greece, I found myself in an ancient church looking at a mosaic image of Jesus bleeding and dying on the cross, and a man next to me, telling me, "That's all you need to know about Jesus. He suffered and died so we will go to Heaven." "But what about his life and his teachings?" I replied. "Doesn't mean a thing," the man said. "He died for you and that's all you need to know."

I don't agree. The man was telling me that I have no responsibility as a Christian for what goes on in this world during my life on Earth. To me that's a cop-out. It's like saying "Jesus died so that I can ignore injustice, say 'to hell with the poor and the stranger' and simply enjoy my privileged status as an American white male with a secure income." We make Messiahs of God-loving men so that we have only to worship them, not listen to what they say or ask of us. Is this not what we have done with Martin Luther King, Jr., set him up with a holiday in his name so we can celebrate what he did and ignore doing what he asked of us?

So, what would Jesus do? One thoughtful Christian and Biblical scholar I admire, Marcus Borg, said it this way in his book, "Jesus":

*He might once again disrupt the temple—the unholy alliance between religion and nation. I think he would teach the wrongness and futility of violence in human affairs. He would be passionate about compassion and justice as the primary virtues of a life centered in the God whom*

*he knew.*

Meanwhile women who had appointments legally set to talk with a judge about the threats to their lives in a foreign land can only weep, and violent criminals are set free to attack again. Where is today's prophet speaking the word of God? May our Messiah, our Jesus, be the one we hear, and may we do as he would do.

~Written by Ned Edwards

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