



Life of Christ

A study of the life and teachings of Jesus

The Plot to Kill Jesus

by Nate King

I love stories. Chances are you do, too. Pop culture is brimming with tales that hook us from the word “go.” We love being invited into the intrigue and excitement of a developing plot and the victory to come. We love watching good versus evil and the bad guys’ plans withering at the hands of the hero.

Jesus was a master of story. He routinely used short stories to deliver big truths in amazing ways. As cool as Jesus’ stories were, and as much as they have been studied, preached, and marveled at—none of them are as amazing as the story He lived. Never has there been such a remarkable story take place.

Every great story includes a moment used by storytellers called “The Bad Guys Close In,” the moment when the villains seem to get the upper hand. The proverbial noose tightens, and it looks like the hero is about to be in big trouble.

In Luke’s Gospel, this is precisely what seems to occur at the outset of the twenty-second chapter. The religious elite plot to murder Jesus. They fear His influence and seek to undo the Light of the World from the midst of the shadows. They recruit His friend with a bribe. And the plan is in motion to murder the Hope of the World.

Nate, you said it “seems to occur”? That’s right. Because while the religious elite are caught up in their schemes, God’s redemptive plan is already in its final stages. The Bad Guys here seem to be closing in, but actually, salvation is drawing near. As the enemy readies for victory, the final victory belongs to the Lamb slain before the foundations of the world.

Jesus said it would happen. He’d mentioned it several times. He also made it clear that anyone who belonged to His Kingdom would face an enemy—the real bad guy—who was out to steal, kill, and destroy. But the murder of Jesus doesn’t end with a win for the enemy. It culminates in the hope available to each of us right now. The bad guys may have closed in, but they couldn’t shut grace out.

The life you have stepped into as a child of God is not one of defeat. It is one of victory. But it's often an upside-down victory. It may routinely seem like the bad guys are closing in, but remember: They can't shut grace out.

I don't know how this might show up in your life. I can only promise you that it's nearly a certainty. That's encouraging, right? No, not exactly. I know. It's never easy to accept uncomfortable truths. But you're a child of God. You're a co-heir with Christ. You belong to the King of Kings and the Kingdom of God. You do have an enemy

Maybe finances have gotten difficult, and just when you thought you caught a break, something went sideways. It may seem like the bad guys are closing in. Maybe a long and trusted friend suddenly did something uncharacteristically unkind. When the bad guys close in on our lives, it feels like a secret plot has been hatched to steal what we love, kill who we are, and destroy the good things the Lord has done. It might even feel like we're losing.

When the noose feels real, and the pressure is on, quiet your heart to the tumult around you, even if only for a moment. Remember who you follow: Jesus. The plot to take Him out was the biggest setup in all of human history. Yes, sorrow might last through the night—but joy does come in the morning.

The best plot is the one you've been born into by the blood of Christ. The best story is the one Jesus is still telling in the halls of Heaven and the hearts of the men and women He loves. The plot to kill Jesus wasn't the finale; it was just another turn of the page. And the plot to take you down is likely the scenario God will use to set you up.

If life is hard right now, don't despair. Lean toward hope. If everything seems upside down, it's probably because you're experiencing a different kind of victory. The enemy is trying to take you down, but the power of Christ at work in your life will always turn the page on defeat and reveal a final victory.

Question Is there something in life that you want (maybe even a good thing!), but you're tempted to get it in a not-so-good way? Or, does it feel like there's a plot against your life in this season?

Family Chat Today's Question and Take Action are great to walk through together as a family.

Take Action As the Lord helps you unravel those things in your life that are not of Him—whether it's of your own making or a plot of the enemy against you—take a risk and tell a friend today.