

# Check-in

Follow-up on last week:

- ✱ “Aha moments”
- ✱ Questions *[AMA]*
- ✱ Comments
- ✱ Reflections

# What Did Jesus Really Say & Do —“According to” *Matthew*?

- \* March 12 - April 16, 2019
- \* 10:00am - 11:30am
- \* ~4 chapters/week

## Even the Devil Quotes Scripture (Matthew 4)

---

- **1** Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **2** He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.
- **3** The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."
- **4** But he answered, "It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"
- **5** Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, **6** saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you,' and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

## Even the Devil Quotes Scripture (Matthew 4)

---

- **7** Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test.""
- **8** Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor;
- **9** and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."
- **10** Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." **11** Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

# Who Quotes the Bible & Why?

---

- Ernest readers
- Rigorous scholars
- Pandering (or sincere) politicians, each allegedly with all the best intentions.
- Large and complicated text (the Bible say a *lot* of things!)
- Can be used to hurt or to heal
- “Texts don’t mean, people mean with texts” - Dale Martin

# First Temptation

---

- Devil tempts Jesus to show off:
- to provide food just as God provided food in the wilderness.
- Soon enough Jesus will begin to perform miracles that do include the distribution of food — such as in the Feeding of the 5,000 —
- But the devil wants Jesus to begin his public ministry *early, on the devil's terms*

## First Temptation:

Jesus quotes back from Deuteronomy 8

---

- “2 Remember the long way that God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep God’s commandments.
- 3 God humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that **one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.**”
- implies that Jesus’ forty days in the desert is a microcosm of Israel’s forty years wandering in the wilderness.

# Second Temptation

---

- “The devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.”
- Did they hiked up to that very high mountain?
- Or did they apparate or teleport?
- Or was there some sort of giant Jumbo-Tron screen to show Jesus “all the kingdoms of the world”?
- More likely— in whatever sense it is historically accurate — a vision experienced within Jesus’ own psyche than an event that could have been captured by someone wandering by with a smart phone.



- from a sort of roving agent acting on God's behalf — always obstructing but not always evil —

---

- to an increasingly evil force identified more and more with intimate enemies, members of one's own community with whom one is in conflict.
- Trend toward demonization of portions of the Jewish community intensified with the emergence of Christianity and became the basis for demonization of heretics and centuries of anti-Semitism.

# THE ORIGIN OF SATAN

"Arresting...brilliant...this book illuminates the angels with which we must wrestle to come to the truth of our bedeviling spiritual problems." — *Boston Globe*



# ELAINE PAGELS

National Book Award-Winning Author of *The Gnostic Gospels*

# Second Temptation

---

- This round the devil is the one who quotes scripture.
- After Jesus had used Deuteronomy to rebuke him, the devil responds in turn by quoting from Psalm 91:
- “9 Because you have made God your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, 10 no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. **11 For God will command the angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. 12 On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone. 13** You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.”
- Ironically, Psalm 91 had a reputation as an “Apotropaic Psalm,” a set of words used to ward off evil.

## Second Temptation

---

- Jesus contests this perversion of Psalm 91 with another passage from Deuteronomy (6:16), “Do not put the Lord your God to the test....”
- The rest of that verse — the part Matthew doesn’t quote for us — reads, “...as you tested him at Massah.”
- Massah — also known as “Meribah” — is famous as the passage in the Torah where Moses didn’t cried God for bringing water from a rock for the people Israel wandering in the desert (Exodus 17:1-6 or Numbers 20:1-13).
- The devil is again tempting Jesus to turn the spotlight on himself, instead of pointing toward God.

# Classic Religious Temptation

---

- *Quid pro quo* (“this for that”) spirituality:
- Jesus is being tempted to act as if God is a *cosmic slot machine* such that
- if you do “x” prayer or good works (*throw yourself off the Temple*)
- then God will do “y” (*“command the angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”*).

# Third Temptation

---

- Devil throws caution to the wind and nakedly solicits Jesus to worship him directly.
- Jesus responds for a third time by quoting Deuteronomy — this time from 6:13,
- “The Lord your God you shall fear; you shall serve God, and by God’s name alone you shall swear.”



Abbey of Gethsemane

Trappist, Kentucky

# Even the Devil Quotes Scripture (Matthew 4)

---

- “**B**asic **I**nstructions **B**efore **L**eaving **E**arth” (other worldly)
- Bible is a library.
- Answers not the only important thing—also: learning to ask skillful/wise questions.
- Brian McLaren:  
New STATEments --> States --> Hate  
New QUESTions --> Quests --> Conversations
- **AMA**: “Aha moments,” Questions, Comments, Reflections

# Hard Sayings of Jesus (Matthew 5)

*(1st third of the Sermon on the Mount)*

---

- 38 "You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'
- 39 But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also;
- 40 and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well;
- 41 and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile.
- 42 Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.
- 43 "You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'
- 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,



# Jesus & Jingoism (Matthew 5)

*(1st third of the Sermon on the Mount)*

---

- Story: The Youth Minister & the Beggar
- Who can live up to those ideals? Although not perfect:
  - Dorothy Day
  - Martin Luther King, Jr.
  - Mohandas Gandhi
  - [Thich Nhat Hanh](#) - engaged Buddhist monk
  - [Shane Claiborne](#) - Simple Way community in Philadelphia
  - [Jean Vanier](#) - *L'arche*

# Jesus & Jingoism (Matthew 5)

*(1st third of the Sermon on the Mount)*

---

- Our society tends to follow “**What Would Barrabas Do?**”
  - Zealot
  - favored violent insurrection to further the cause of the righteous.
  - would have loved the crusades in the Middle Ages which were waged in Jesus’ name.
- **WWJD?** Willing to *risk* being killed to convert his opponent to his side rather than seeking to kill/eliminate opponent.

# Christmas Eve Sermon on Peace

**I've seen too much hate  
to want to hate, myself, and  
every time I see it, I say to myself,  
hate is too great a burden to bear.  
Somehow we must be able to stand up  
against our most bitter opponents  
and say:**

**"We shall match your capacity  
to inflict suffering  
by our capacity to endure suffering.  
We will meet your physical force with soul force.**

**Do to us what you will  
and we will still love you....**

**But be assured that  
we'll wear you down by our capacity to suffer,  
and one day we will win our freedom.**

**We will not only win freedom for ourselves;  
we will appeal to your heart and conscience  
that we will win you in the process,  
and our victory will be a double victory.**

**– Martin Luther King Jr. 1967**

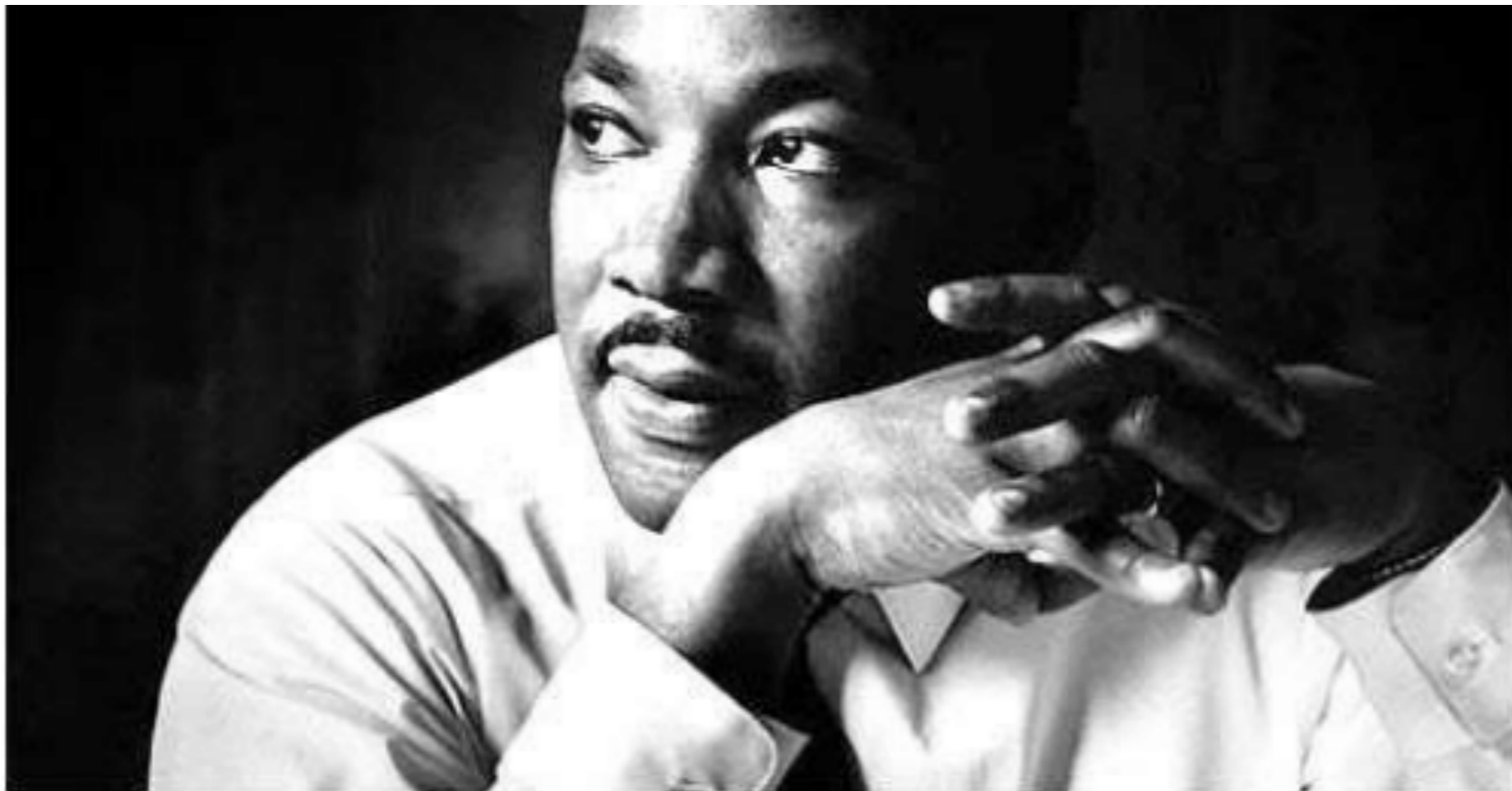


# Why fights over posting Ten Commandments on Courtrooms instead of Beatitudes?

---

- 38 "You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'
- 39 But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also;
- 40 and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well;
- 41 and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile.
- 42 Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.
- 43 "You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'
- 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

**When Jesus said "Love your enemies,"  
he probably didn't mean "kill them."**



*Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?*, 62-63 (1967)

“

The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it.

Through violence you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth. Through violence you may murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate. So it goes.

Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that.

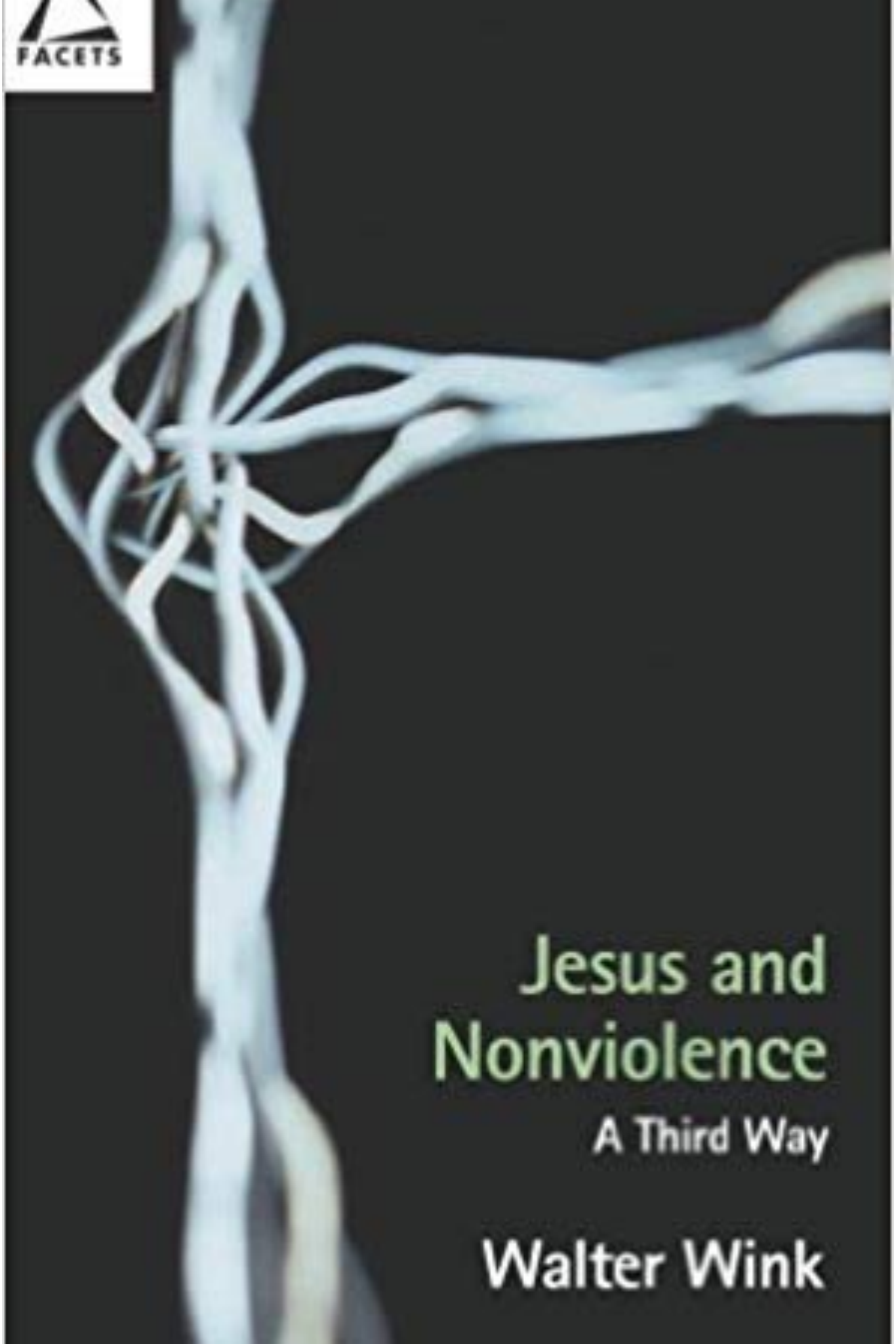
**Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.**

# Case Study of Jesus's "Love Your Enemies": MLK & Killing OBL

---

- Gained valuable intelligence against terrorist networks from Osama bin Laden's compound
- Killed a threat to our national security,
- But although we killed the liar, we did not kill all the lies that continue to motivate political and religious extremists like Al-Qaeda.
- We killed a hater, but we did not kill all the hate — some of it justified — that continues to broil against our country in many parts of the world.

- verse 39, “Do not resist an evildoer”
- **more accurately translated as “Do not *violently* resist an evildoer”**
- verb specifically refers to situations of “armed resistance in military encounters” or “violent struggle.”
- Context for next few verses: three specific ways of resisting evildoers *nonviolently*.
- appealing to human decency of the would-be evildoer.



## Jesus and Nonviolence

A Third Way

Walter Wink



# Jesus & Nonviolence

---

- If someone slaps you — “strikes you on the right cheek”
- Instead of either striking back or cowering, we can literally turn the other cheek, offering the other cheek to be potentially slapped as well.
- Maintain your dignity and refuse to grant the attacker the power to humiliate you.
- Gandhi: refusing to strike back as British soldiers who brutally beat his followers on his Salt March to the sea.
- MLK: counseled his followers not to strike back even when attacked by dogs or water hoses.
- Expose the violence of your attackers as unnecessary and cruel
- Demonstrate that not the second-class animals who could rightly be treated as “less than,” as their attackers wished to portray them.

# Jesus & Nonviolence

---

- “If anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well.”
- Coat was a standard outer garment in the first-century
- Giving away your cloak (your undergarment) as well would have left you naked.
- Jesus is presumably addressing this teaching to poor peasants who would likely only be sued by landowners looking to game the legal system to take even more from the poorest of the poor.
- Stripping naked in court was an attempt to symbolically shame those who try to take almost everything from those who already have so little.

# Jesus & Nonviolence

---

- “If anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile.”
- Likely addressed specifically to Roman soldiers who would force civilians to carry their gear for one mile.
- Eagerly agreeing to go a second or even third mile robs the soldier of the superiority of being able to “force” civilians to carry their gear
- Assert the would-be victim’s equality, autonomy, and common humanity in the face of a would-be oppressor.

# Bill Maher

---

- “If you’re a Christian who supports killing your enemies and torture, you have to come up with a new name for yourself....
- For almost 2000 years Christians have been lawyering the Bible to try and figure out how ‘Love thy neighbor’ can mean ‘Hate thy neighbor’
- And how ‘Turn the other cheek’ can mean ‘I'm buying space lasers.’
- Martin Luther King gets to call himself a Christian because he actually practiced loving his enemies....
- Non-violence was kind of Jesus' trademark — kind of his big thing. To not follow that part of it is like joining Green Peace and hating whales.

# Bill Maher

---

- You're supposed to look at that figure of Christ on the cross and think, 'How could a man suffer like that and forgive.'
- My favorite new government program is surprising violent religious zealots in the middle of the night and shooting them in the face. But you see I can say that because I am a non-Christian — just like most Christians.
- Christians, I know you hate this and you want to square this circle but you can't. I'm not even judging you. I'm just saying logically, if you ignore every single thing Jesus commanded you to do, you are not Christian. You're not Christ's followers. You're just fans.” *[follower/admirer]*

PAUL

WAS NOT A  
CHRISTIAN

The ORIGINAL MESSAGE of a  
MISUNDERSTOOD  
APOSTLE

PAMELA EISENBAUM

"A provocative book... Eisenbaum's lively prose and meticulous scholarship provide a compelling new portrait of the apostle." *Publication Weekly*

"Tells with brio the gripping story of the early Jewish followers of Jesus."  
Martin Goodman

WHEN  
CHRISTIANS  
WERE  
JEWS

THE FIRST  
GENERATION

PAULA  
FREDRIKSEN



40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EDITION

**PAUL AND  
PALESTINIAN JUDAISM**

A COMPARISON OF PATTERNS OF RELIGION

**E. P. SANDERS**

WITH A FOREWORD BY  
MARK CHANCEY

Copyrighted Material

E. P. SANDERS

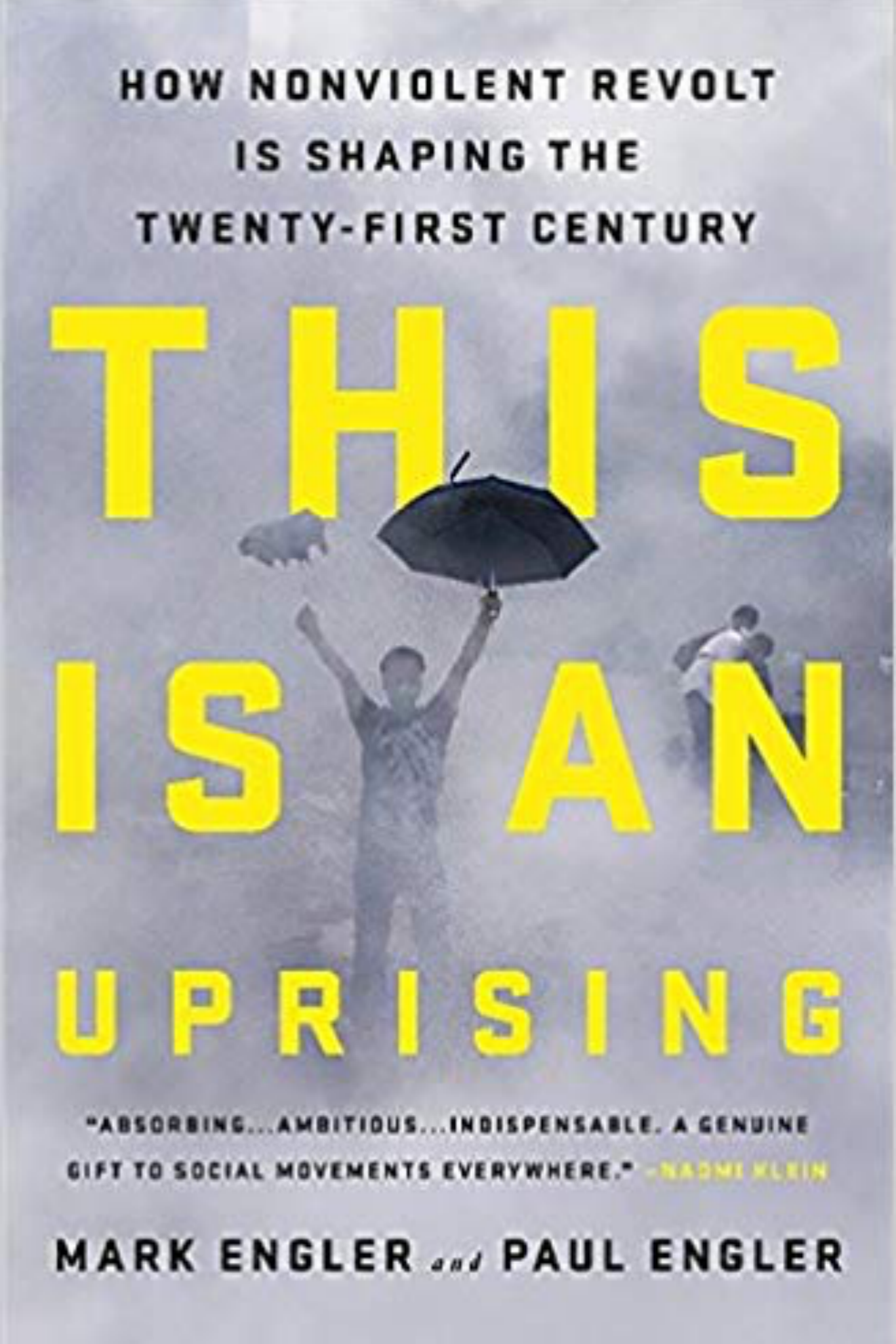
**JESUS**  
*and*  
**Judaism**

WINNER OF THE 1990  
LOUISVILLE GRAWEMEYER  
AWARD IN RELIGION

Copyrighted Material



Good Samaritan - That Mitchell and Webb Look.



HOW NONVIOLENT REVOLT  
IS SHAPING THE  
TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

# THIS IS AN UPRISING

"ABSORBING...AMBITIOUS...INDISPENSABLE. A GENUINE  
GIFT TO SOCIAL MOVEMENTS EVERYWHERE." -NAOMI KLEIN

MARK ENGLER *and* PAUL ENGLER



# Check-out

What have *resonated* most with you: excited or disturbed?

- ✱ “Aha moments”
- ✱ Questions
- ✱ Comments
- ✱ Reflections