

# DEATH BY RELIGION

From the series *Why Jesus Hates Religion*

## So why does Jesus hate religion?

Religion says: find your way to God

Jesus says: I am God with you

*"She will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. . . Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" Matthew 1:21,23*

*"When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he left Judea and returned to Galilee . . . the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light . . . From then on Jesus began to preach, 'Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.'" Matthew 4:12,16-17*

Religions says: work to make yourself righteous

Jesus says: I give forgiveness and healing

*"Large crowds followed Jesus as he came down the mountainside. Suddenly, a man with leprosy approached him and knelt before him. 'Lord,' the man said, 'if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean.' Jesus reached out and touched him. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be healed!' And instantly the leprosy disappeared. Then Jesus said to him, ' . . . go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy. This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed.'" Matthew 8:1-4*

*" . . . Some people brought to him a paralyzed man on a mat. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, 'Be encouraged, my child! Your sins are forgiven.' But some of the teachers of religious law said to themselves, 'That's blasphemy! Does he think he's God?' Jesus knew what they were thinking . . . 'Why do you have such evil thoughts in your hearts? Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up and walk'? So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins.' Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, 'Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!'" Matthew 9:2-7*

## So why does Jesus hate religion? (cont.)

Religion says: we provide the way to God

Jesus says: religion is no way to God—I am the way

*"In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money. Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple . . . But the Jewish leaders demanded, 'What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it.' 'All right,' Jesus replied. 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' . . . But when Jesus said 'this temple,' he meant his own body." John 2:14,15,18,19,21*

*"Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom . . ." Matthew 27:50-51*

*"Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.'" John 14:6*

## So why do we love religion?