

Examples of Jesus overturning the scapegoating mechanism

Jesus teaching in the gospels

'Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you' (Matthew 5:44)

'take the log out of your own eye' (Matthew 7:5)

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.(Matthew 18:20-22 (countering Genesis 4:24 "If Cain is avenged seven times, then Lamech seventy-seven times.")

Jesus to his disciples: "the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God" (John 16:2)

"But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless" (Matthew 12:7; 9:13)

Words of the High Priest before Jesus' arrest: "You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish." (John 11:50)

Jesus during his arrest, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over... But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." (John 18:36)

Jesus words from the cross: "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)

Post resurrection insights of the early church

Jesus' resurrection words to some of the people who had abandoned: "Peace be with you." (John 20:19)

St Paul speaking about his pre-conversion state: '...as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless' (Philippians 3:6) (cf The violent 'zeal for God' of Phineas in Numbers 25:11)

'Christ [his life, cross, resurrection] is the image of the invisible God' (Colossians 1:15/Hebrews 1:3)

Jesus – "the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel". (Hebrews 12:24 [the blood of the forgiving victim of the blood of the vengeful victim in Genesis 4:10)

'Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus – obedient to the point of death' (Philippians 2:5,8 Colossians 3:2)

'Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us' (2 Corinthians 5:19)

'all of us with unveiled faces are being transformed from one degree of glory to another' [positive mimesis] (2 Corinthians 3:18)