

Rude religion with attitude, is full of life

By JIM RYAN
Herald Special

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Times
Oct. 27, 1991
Mark 10: 46-52

RELIGION WITH ATTITUDE

Jesus' religion was religion with attitude. Yeah! It was rude man, it was rude.

Yo! What do you mean rude religion?

Rude means... let me be precise: (1) primitive; (2) violent; (3) vigorous and hearty; (4) insolent, impertinent and offensive.

Yeah?

Well, it's like N.W.A. you know? Jesus had attitude, but it wasn't the BEHAPPYATTITUDE of Robert Schuller, it was the RUDEATTITUDE of N.W.A. (An American Band called Niggers with Attitude.)

I don't get it. Explain.

Well, most people think rude means (4), that is, insolent, impertinent and offensive. That's what they think about N.W.A. But even Jesus was rude in this sense. Remember how the Sanhedrin wanted to censor Jesus?

And some people think rude



Religion and Reality
by Jim Ryan

hearty. Jesus' religion was certainly vigorous and hearty. Is that all?

No. Rude also sounds an awful lot like Rood to me, and Rood means Cross. Jesus' religion was a Rude Rood Religion. For Him, religion meant the Cross. The Cross was Rude. Yes, it was primitive, violent and offensive. It was also vigorous and hearty.

Oddly enough, rude religion, religion with attitude, is full of life. Rood religion is also full of life.

ROOD RELIGION AND MARK

In next Sunday's Gospel reading, Jesus cures a man of blindness. The blindness of Bartimaeus, a physical blindness, is a metaphor for another kind of blindness, a blindness that sees religion as being primarily a BEHAPPYATTITUDE, and a blindness that sees Jesus as being primarily the BEHAPPYATTITUDE MIRACLE-WORKER. Mark is happy with Bartimaeus because he has entered upon the path of the true disciple. The true disciple is the one who enters upon the Way which leads to the

means violent. You know how Jesus cleansed the Temple? That was rude. His rudeness was met by greater rudeness however. He was crucified.

But most people don't know that rude also means primitive.

You mean like, "...a rude shelter...?"

Yes. Rude means primitive in the sense that it is the original, the root. It's the opposite of derivative.

Derivative...? That means... like Vanilla Ice is derivative?

Yeah.

Rude also means vigorous and

Cross. For Mark, that's the only Way worth pursuing.

RUDE RELIGION AND MARK
Read what John Drury writes about the Gospel of Mark.

"A world is ordered and structured by its boundaries. It is changed when those boundaries are crossed. They are social fictions, myths which await their demythologizers. A narrative can draw even tidier boundaries than exist in the world, but only to violate them the more dramatically. The Christians were heirs of the magisterial transgressions of their founder, the outcast

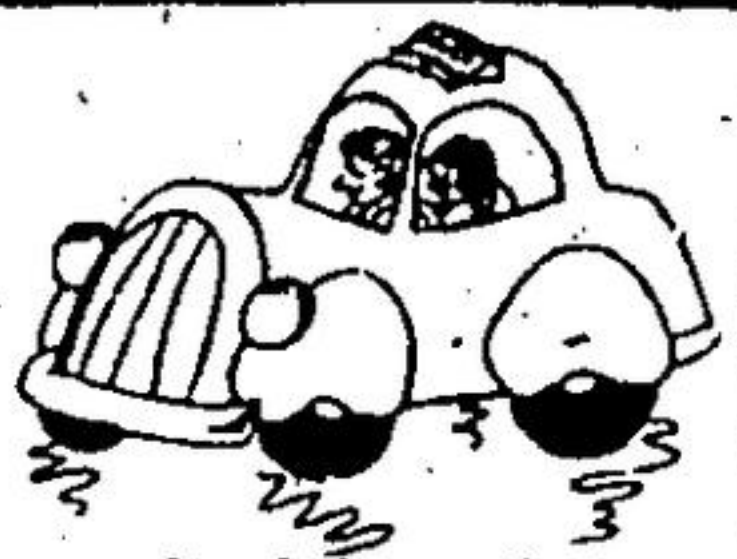
Messiah. From the standpoint of traditional Judaism these were blasphemies. Blasphemy, the crime for which Jesus is condemned (14:64), is an eruption of religious energy from the depths below orthodox structure, which it threatens by its primal force. It was for the Christians to show that what was, from the traditionalist point of view, a destructive evil, was truly a divinely authenticated salvation of the lost."

Endnote: The Literary Guide to the Bible, edited by Alter and Kermode, (1987).

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Glen Williams. (From left to right) Ming Kwan, Carolyn Kwan, Gordon Burnett, Carolyn Sinclair, and Robert Miller. (Herald Photo)

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