

## **Monday: Holy Week—A Dangerous Memory**

Friends,

An accurate remembrance of Jesus' torture and murder during Holy Week and of His response of nonviolent love to the violence directed against Him is a very dangerous memory. It is dangerous first of all because it is a memory that ends in Jesus' total destruction, with His friends betraying Him, running away and hiding in fear for their lives. All hope that Jesus, the incarnational paragon of nonviolence and nonviolent love was going to bring about significant social, political or religious change in things as they are and as they always have been was—as of three o'clock in the afternoon on Friday of Holy Week—as dead as Jesus. Jesus was dead wrong; the meek never have and never will possess the earth. The violent rule. The default option of all ruling power comes from the barrel of a gun. The violent may tolerate the likes of the nonviolent Jesus for a while but can and will do-him-in if ever they feel the need to do so. As of Saturday of Holy Week, Jesus changed nothing socially, politically or religiously in Israel or in the world. That is a dangerous memory for any Christian who espouses any rendering of Constantinian Christianity—conservative, liberal or radical.