

THE BAD BOYS OF EASTER

My Private Nation

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Scripture: *Matthew 23:33; John 12:17-19; John 11:47-53; John 10:17-18; John 11:53*

Idea: Saying **yes** to God will cost you something. Saying **no** will cost you more—including the thing you chose over him.

Introduction

If you're not a Christian or a believer, here's something you find strange, and you should:

1. Christians resist the God we say we trust. We are in a perpetual tug of war with God: I know I should, but: forgive – morally – ethically. You call it **hypocrisy**.
2. Hypocrisy
In our defense: Surrendering control/agenda is terrifying/unnatural. In the weeks preceding his crucifixion, three men intersect with the story of Jesus. Three agendas.
3. In the days and weeks preceding the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, three men find their way into the story . . . each with his own agenda and perspective on the person of Christ. There's a little bit of all of **them** in all of **us**.
4. We read their stories and wonder how men could be so naive, so arrogant, so stubborn. And yet, chances are, there is a little bit of all of them in all of us.
5. Each had the coveted opportunity to stand in the presence of the Savior of the world. Each was witness to the pivotal event in human history. Each refused to abandon his petty, ultimately meaningless agenda, pride, and quest for control and surrender to his or her Creator.

Here's the irony (*poetic justice*): Each had a coveted opportunity. Each refused to abandon petty agendas and the quest for control. Their stories of resistance actually illustrate the futility of resisting God.

6. In the end, each left a legacy that underscores the very truth they fought so hard to accept. God is in control. His will will be done. Each played right into the inescapable—inevitable plan of God. Moral of the story: it is futile to resist.

I. Joseph Caiaphas: Jewish High Priest, 18-36

Background: appointed Roman governor. His father-in-law and five BN Laws served as high priest. Caiaphas was appointed in AD 18 by the Roman prefect who