



*The Rock is a Youth
Ministry of Ascension
Lutheran Church*

What Was Nailed to the Cross?

Based on Colossians 2:6-15

Michael:	Jay
Zach:	Adam (Biker Costume)
Johannes:	Bob
Matt:	Clyde
Sam K:	Doug
Nathan:	Skippy
Fred:	Fred
Haley:	Gracie
Toby:	Harry

Setting: *A variation on Jay Leno's "J-Walking" with a celebrity hhost, asking people the question "So, what was nailed to the Cross?"*

Jay: So, for today's Jay-Walking segment, we thought we'd ask a few random people the question, "So, what was nailed to the cross?" Oh, here comes someone now. *(Pause.)* Sir, sir, can I have a moment with you.

Adam: Yeah, well you know, I'm kind of in a hurry. I'm late for RAGBRAI.

Jay: Oh, this will just take a moment. We're just taking some time today to get people's opinions on a question.

Adam: Very well. What's the question?

Jay: What—in your view—was nailed to the cross?

July 25, 2010

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- Adam: Oh, that's easy. That guy...what's his name...Jesus. Yeah, that's it. Jesus. He was nailed to the cross.
- Jay: Anything else?
- Adam: Nope. That's about it. Can I go now? Got to get west so I can go east.
- Jay: Don't we all. Very well, thank you sir. (*Spots Bob.*) Oh, here's another. Sir, sir...
- Bob: Yeah, what do you want? Can't you see I gotta' get to my investment club meeting?
- Jay: We're just asking people the question, "What—in your view—was nailed to the cross?" Our first person said Jesus was nailed to the cross.
- Bob: Well, sure, but there were those other guys too.
- Jay: The two thieves?
- Bob: Yeah, yeah. That's it. Do I win anything? Do I get anything in return for my investing all this time with you?
- Jay: Uh, no.
- Bob: Figures... (*Stomps away.*)
- Jay: Excuse me, sir (*Clyde stops*). What--other than Jesus and two thieves--was nailed to the cross?
- Clyde: Oh, oh...don't tell me...I should remember this from that one Lenten service. (*Pause.*) My sins. Yeah, that's it! My sins...and I don't have to tell you...there have been some good ones. You know, wasn't it Luther who said, "So when you sin, sin boldly?" Lutherans, you gotta' love 'em! (*Shakes his head.*) Well, gotta' get on my way.
- Jay: Thank you. (*Pause to look around. Spots Doug walking and texting.*) Excuse me sir...

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- Doug: Oh...now you made me hit the wrong key! You've ruined my tweet!
- Jay: So sorry, I'm taking a survey by asking people to identify what was nailed to the cross?
- Doug: I don't know? Did you google it? You know somebody's bound to know the answer. You just need to cast it out on the web, and you're sure to reel in an answer.
- Jay: But I want your point of view.
- Doug: Well, you'll just have to submit the question in writing to my blog, just like everyone else. L-O-L!
- Jay: Excuse me, sir (Skippy stops).
- Skippy: Dude, you talkin' to me?
- Jay: Ah, yeah.
- Skippy: Oh man, like that is so cool! Hey, that's a...a...
- Jay: Microphone?
- Skippy: Yeah, yeah, that's it. Totally awesome man! What's happening?
- Jay: I'm just taking a survey and getting people's views on a question.
- Skippy: Righteous! Like this isn't gonna' be on M-TV is it? Like I skipped work today, and this isn't gonna get me busted is it? Oh well, what's the question?
- Jay: "What was nailed to the cross?"
- Skippy: (*Defensively throws up hands.*) Don't look at me, man. I didn't do it. Like, I didn't go near the thing. Like it wasn't me. I was at the board park until sunset last night, man...
- Jay: Very well. (*Pauses for another.*) Excuse me, sir,

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- Fred: Yes. *(Fred is texting away quite busily).*
- Jay: I was just taking a survey, and...
- Fred: Can't you see I'm busy?
- Jay: But I only wanted to...
- Fred: I'm texting. Do you mind? *(Walks away. To Audience.)* You know we have a First Amendment right to text! Sometimes they treat us textors as second-class citizens. What about textor's rights? You'd think people were dying from second-hand texting or something. *(Stomps off.)*
- Jay: *(To audience.)* You ever have one of those days? *(Spots a couple.)* Aha. Excuse me, folks. *(Gracie & Harry stop.)* I'm just taking a survey and asking people a question: Apart from Jesus, two thieves, and the sins of the world, what was nailed to the cross?
- Gracie: Hmm. More like, "what wasn't nailed to the cross?"
- Jay: Excuse me?
- Harry: Well, of course, it's a bit of an overstatement if taken too literally, but in a manner of speaking, everything was nailed to the cross.
- Jay: Hmm. Now you'll have to explain this.
- Gracie: You see, Jesus' cross was like the pivotal point in all history. Yes, Jesus was nailed to the cross, and yes, it was the collective sins of mankind—past, present, and future--that put him there, but together with the resurrection three days later, it was the major game-changing event of all history.
- Harry: Gracie, he looks confused. Let me try. You see, by believing in Jesus and his atoning sacrifice on the cross, we are freed from our slavery to sin, made evident to us by our inability to keep the law—God's

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standard for a perfect life.

- Gracie: Hmm. He still looks stupefied. (*She opens her Bible.*) Here, listen to how Paul said it in Colossians Chapter 2:13-14. "You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.
- Jay: Hmm. Sounds like Paul was saying our hopelessness to save ourselves by obeying the law and the law's just conviction of us as sinners, were both nailed to the cross.
- Harry: Yes. But sometimes people forget that. So when asked why they're saved, they'll say stuff like "Well, I attend church every Sunday" or "I hope I'll get to heaven because I try to live a pretty good life."
- Gracie: That's when the other parts of Colossians chapter 2 come up. In verse 8, Paul says "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ."
- Harry: There's a lot of stuff that fit's into that big bucket of "hollow and deceptive philosophy." Why just yesterday at the water park someone had a tattoo that read "Heaven isn't a place to go when you die, it's a place you achieve when you feel you're alive—so live for the moment."
- Gracie: That's a human tradition of sorts. So is the idea of "Obey this law or that one, or try your best to live by the Ten Commandments and hope God grades on a curve."
- Harry: That's the part of living by basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.
- Gracie: In a nutshell, that's it. All our reliance on stuff other

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than Christ was to die with Christ on the cross.

Harry: And I like the way Paul used that metaphor about being sure no one takes us captive in verse 8. You see, in the Roman world, people were very familiar with military parades. A conquering king or general would ride in a parade in a triumphant chariot followed by the evidence of his victories: riches taken and captives walking in chains, all as public spectacles to the great victory.

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Gracie: In verse 8 he's telling the Colossians not to be taken captive, and then in verse 15, Paul brings back this imagery of captives by saying "And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."

Harry: So in place of man being made captive by wrong beliefs, as Paul warned in verse 8, in verse 15 Paul said Christ the victor made all things captive to him.

Jay: And where we usually see the cross as an instrument of death, it was--in a way--a triumphant chariot of victory...

Gracie: ...having put to death all things that would otherwise take the place of Christ in our lives: salvation by works, or tradition, or other man-made Gods.

Harry: *(Jay turns and starts walking away.)* Hey, did we say something that offended you? Where are you going?

Jay: I got to find a couple new friends I met. Now we really do have something to text, tweet, and blog about. Now where did those guys go? *(Wanders off stage.)*