



Standing Up to the Crowd
April 1 & 2, 2023

Psalm 118:8 (NCV)

It is better to trust the LORD than to trust people.

Matthew 27:22-26 (NIV)

"What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked. They all answered, "Crucify him!" "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!" Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Proverbs 14:12-13 (MSG)

There's a way of life that looks harmless enough; look again - it leads straight to hell. Sure, those people appear to be having a good time, but all that laughter will end in heartbreak.

The word for "crowd" is used 20 times in the crucifixion story and every instance has a negative connotation.

Exodus 23:2 (NLT)

Never follow a crowd in doing wrong. When you are called to testify in a dispute, do not be swayed by the crowd to twist justice.

5 Characteristics of a Godless Crowd:

1. The crowd always overreacts.

Matthew 26:55 (NLT)

Then Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I some dangerous revolutionary, that you come with swords and clubs to arrest me? Why didn't you arrest me in the Temple? I was there teaching every day."

Psalm 35:20 (MSG)

No good is going to come from that crowd; They spend all their time cooking up gossip against those who mind their own business.

2. The crowd is easily influenced.

Matthew 27:20 (TPT) Meanwhile, the chief priest and the religious leaders were inciting the crowd to ask for Barabbas to be freed and to have Jesus killed.

The crowd was:

- Starving and poor and Jesus fed them.
- Sick and diseased and Jesus healed them.
- Slaves to sin and Jesus freed them.

3. The crowd rarely thinks before they act.

Matthew 27:25 (TPT)

And the crowd replied, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!"

Proverbs 4:23 (NCV)

Be careful what you think, because your thoughts run your life.

Proverbs 14:15 (NCV)

Fools will believe anything, but the wise think about what they do.

4. The crowd has undeniable power.

John 19:12 (GNT)

When Pilate heard this, he tried to find a way to set Jesus free. But the crowd shouted back, "If you set him free, that means that you are not the Emperor's friend! Anyone who claims to be a king is a rebel against the Emperor!"

Mark 15:15 (NCV)

Pilate wanted to please the crowd, so he freed Barabbas for them. After having Jesus beaten with whips, he handed Jesus over to the soldiers to be crucified.

5. The crowd makes the worst decisions most of the time.

Luke 23:18 (NLT)

Then a mighty roar rose from the crowd, and with one voice they shouted, "Kill him, and release Barabbas to us!"

How to Stand Up to the Crowd

1

Speak truth boldly, but with genuine humility.

Luke 22:47-48 (NLT)

But even as Jesus said this, a crowd approached, led by Judas, one of the twelve disciples. Judas walked over to Jesus to greet him with a kiss. But Jesus said, "Judas would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Ephesians 4:15 (NLT)

Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

2

Stand courageously, knowing the crowd is slow to change.

Luke 22:66-71 (NLT)

At daybreak all the elders of the people assembled, including the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. Jesus was led before this high council, and they said, "Tell us, are you the Messiah?" But he replied, "If I tell you, you won't believe me. And if I ask you a question, you won't answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated in the place of power at God's right hand." They all shouted, "So, are you claiming to be the Son of God?" And he replied, "You say that I am." "Why do we need other witnesses?" they said. "We ourselves heard him say it."

Ephesians 6:10 (NLT)

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

Psalms 27:1 (NCV)

The LORD is my light and the one who saves me. So why should I fear anyone? The LORD protects my life. So why should I be afraid?

John 19:10-11 (GW)

So Pilate said to Jesus, "Aren't you going to answer me? Don't you know that I have the authority to free you or to crucify you?" Jesus answered Pilate, "You wouldn't have any authority over me if it hadn't been given to you from above..."

3

Selflessly show the grace of God through my sacrifices.

Luke 23:33-34 (GW)

When they came to the place called The Skull, they crucified him. The criminals were also crucified, one on his right and the other on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing." Meanwhile, the soldiers divided his clothes among themselves by throwing dice.

1 John 2:2 (TPT)

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (TPT)

For by grace you have been saved by faith. Nothing you did could ever earn this salvation, for it was the love gift from God that brought us to Christ! So no one will ever be able to boast, for salvation is never a reward for good works or human striving.



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