

WHY WAS JESUS KILLED?

I. HE ANGERED THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS

- A. Showed them their hypocrisy
- B. Diminished their prestige in the synagogue and society
- C. Told people their sins were forgiven = blasphemy
- D. Broke many traditional Jewish laws of Sabbath, purification, etc.
- E. Announced a "new kingdom" of love to those who loved law
- F. Associated with the wrong crowd: sinners vs. righteous
- G. Claimed the greatest in the Kingdom of God is the servant of others

II. HE THREATENED THE SOCIO-POLITICAL STATUS QUO

- A. Brought dignity to the disenfranchised and marginalized
- B. Empowered the poor and the oppressed which threatened systems of power
- C. Drew crowds that might cause problems for Roman authorities
- D. Used the word "kingdom"

III. CHRISTIAN THEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATIONS

- A. To show how much God loves humanity (i.e. Mystery of the Incarnation)
- B. To be an example of the extent to which one can go in love of his/her enemies
- C. Jesus becomes the one and final sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins and the sin nature of humanity
- D. Jesus breaks the barriers of our broken-relatedness to God
- E. The cross is the picture of what God does for us (grace) rather than what we can do for God. God gives us what we need, not what we deserve.