

Article: Opening of the Olympics

I have to admit: I didn't watch the opening of the Olympic Games – it just doesn't interest me. Actually, I used to be an avid follower of sports, but these days, not so much. Sure, I like to hear cricket scores and how much the Broncos lost by (they'll begin winning again one day, I'm sure!), but I think too much money is involved in sport today and that has ruined it.

Anyhow, after hearing what happened at the opening of the Olympic Games with a “parody” of the Last Supper, with Jesus and the Apostles replaced by men in drag, I googled the opening and watched what went on. While I am not sure who in the Paris Olympic Committee thought this was a great idea, it went over like a lead balloon on social media. Let's take a look.

Shameful Disrespect or Art?

I guess it depends on your perspective. I find “parodies” like the one forced on us extremely offensive and disrespectful. I personally believe that there was a clear intent to insult our Lord and all followers of Jesus as well as Church teaching. The organisers will disagree. But this isn't the first time something like this has happened. I won't dignify the “artists” by mentioning their work, but suffice it to say there was no respect or reverence in any of the other works. I am sure that some of the “artists” went down this path purposely to garner attention, and it was attention they got. All sorts of comments have been made on social media.

Although Christianity seems to be the number one target for mockery, it is not the only one. I think of the recent protests against Israel that we have seen here and abroad, including the phrase, “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.” Those protesting call for the complete destruction of Israel. I am not an expert in what is going on in the Middle East, but have you ever noticed that not one of these “artists” create art that disrespectfully depicts the Prophet Muhammed? Based on past history, this is due to the response from the Muslim community. *Fear can be an effective tool in controlling the narrative.*

Should We Care If These “Artists” Disrespect Jesus and Our Faith?

While I think it is fair and we should be expected to voice our concerns and make known our feelings about this disgusting event, as true followers of Jesus, we abide by His words in the Bible:

Matthew 5:11-12: Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you, because of Me! ¹² Rejoice and be very glad! For your reward in heaven is great. For in this way people persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Luke 6: 35-36: Rather, love your enemies! Do good and lend, without expecting to get anything back! Then your reward will be great, and you will be the children of the Most High, because He is kind to ungrateful and wicked people. ³⁶ Be merciful, as your Father also is merciful!

Jesus was mocked and disrespected by many during His earthly ministry. Jesus never reacted or responded to the taunts or the verbal and physical abuse. Granted, scenes, as we saw in the Olympic Opening Ceremony, can be infuriating, but following Jesus is about peace, non-violence, and forgiveness. Jesus asks us to trust Him to address those who wrong us because of our beliefs. Remember, following Jesus is not easy, so let this be a time that we try and get closer to God by following Jesus' words and actions.