

**JudasIscariot** @JudasIscariot

Massacre in Galilee. Temple  
sacrifice laced with Galilean  
blood. How long, O Lord?  
#PilateStinks



 Apostles ReRoasted

@Apostles

@JesusNaz Check this out. Someone should do something.

#PilateStinks. #YouAreSomeone



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JudasIscaariot liked.



Apostles ReRoosted

**@Apostles**

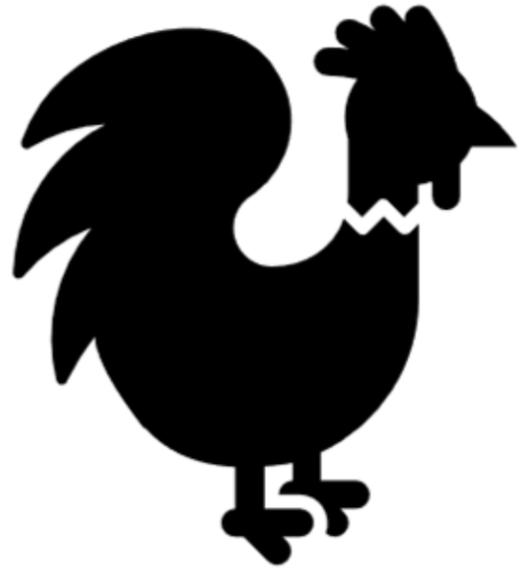
@JesusNaz Check this out. Someone should do something. #PilateStinks. #YouAreSomeone



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**Jesus** @JesusNaz

@Apostles Siloam tower  
accident killed many also. Were  
they less sinful? Don't draw  
inappropriate conclusions.



 JudasIscaariot replied @JudasIscaariot

Do we simply sit and do nothing?  
What about thoughts and prayers?  
#awkward #C'monJesus



**Jesus** @JesusNaz

@Apostles Siloam tower accident killed many also. Were they less sinful? Don't draw inappropriate conclusions.





Apostles reroosted @Apostles

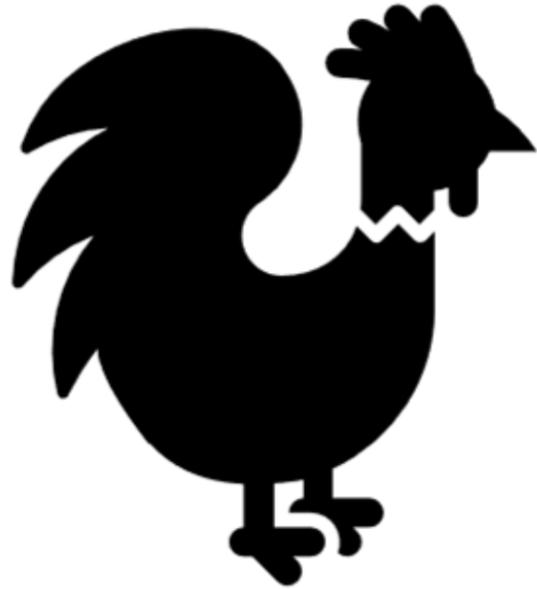
Yeah @JesusNaz, you can't expect us to just ignore this. #ActionNow #I'mwithJudas



JudasIscaiot replied @JudasIscaiot

@Apostles Do we simply sit and do nothing? What about thoughts and prayers? #awkward #C'monJesus





**Jesus** @JesusNaz

@Apostles @JudasIscaiot  
Why don't you try repenting?  
#ConfessYourOwnSins  
#ManureHappens



## #ManureHappens

Jesus probably wasn't using the term merely as illustration. There was probably a bit of expletive in it as well. The crowd and the apostles are playing a wicked game: Trying to assign to God fault for tragedy.

You can't blame them. It worked in the past. After the fall of the temple, the same game will be played – God did this because we did this, that, or some other thing.

Jesus won't have any of it. His response is that "Manure Happens". It happens to the righteous and the unrighteous. It happens to the religious and the nonreligious. It happens to African-American Christians engaged in Bible Study. It happens to Muslims engaged in Friday prayers. It happens to innocent children. It even happens to people we believe deserve it.

Instead of reacting with hate or revenge when manure happens, Jesus asks us to consider another way.

Let God use it for good.

In the fig tree parable Jesus tells his disciples, a fig tree is about to lose its shaky hold on life because its not bearing fruit according to the expectations of the landowner. The gardener, though, knows that it is not completely the fault of the fig tree! First off, no one in their right mind would plant a fig tree in the middle of a vineyard.

In general, grapevines grow best in well-drained, slightly acidic soil that is neither deficient in nutrients nor overly rich. Fig trees don't do well with acidic soil. In fact, they like things a bit basic. Both, however, appreciate a little compost.

The Gardener knows best how the fig tree will grow. He doesn't blame the fig tree for its lack of fruitfulness. Nor does he blame the landowner for the unwise planting. The Gardener uses manure to coax out the life and productivity of the fig tree.

If I think about it, I can come up with many, many moments where God has used my bad decision, which resulted in a Manure Happens situation, to change the direction of my life. Sometimes, we have to learn from our failures. Failure doesn't have to mean disaster. In my case, my failure led me to embrace God's call to me to become a priest.

When Manure happens, picking it up and slinging it about isn't helpful. Rather, we should consider what we need to learn from the experience and trust God to use the experience to bring life back into fruitlessness. We need to trust God to be the wise gardener.

However, the expectation of fruitfulness exists! Composting doesn't happen infinitely. Eventually we are answerable to the gardener's hopes. Now that we are half-way through Lent, what better time to pause and evaluate whether or not we are allowing the compost to help us grow, or just tracking it all over and making a bigger mess.

#ManureHappens #SoDoesGrace