

HE IS A HAPPY JESUS

I recently watch a video online called Jesus Painting. It was an interesting video and I found it moving at times, but I enjoyed reading the hundreds of comments left by fellow-viewers. One particular comment caught my attention. *"Neither of them look happy"* - referring to the black-hooded artist and the sad-faced Jesus he had just painted...er...smeared on the black canvas. Another viewer responded to that comment with *"Neither would you if you had just been brutally beaten and hung on a cross... ."*

True. I don't think that Jesus enjoyed one bit of his crucifixion. I doubt that He even smiled during that time. He was, after all, human.

For a lot of Religious people, they remember and portray Jesus as being in a perpetual state of sadness and sorrow. I choose to disagree with that. I read in the Bible where Jesus, during his Earthly ministry, caused a lot of commotion. He went against conventional thinking and against religious leaders of that day. He made a lot of people mad. And I am sure that Jesus knew all along that He would be sacrificed by His Father. I don't think that He particularly looked forward to the actual event, but I am positive that He looked forward to, and was excited about, what would happen as a result of that event.

And that is why, as a Christian today, I am thankful that Jesus died. I am thankful that God sent Jesus to us and sacrificed His own Son. If you want to point the finger at anyone, to blame Jesus' death on anyone - you can start with yourself. Then, point to God.

I also believe that when Jesus arose from the dead, He was happy. Not just happy, may



I even suggest that He was ECSTATIC?? He'd finished His job on Earth; He kicked the devil's scrawny behind, and won back God's people. That's something to be HAPPY about!! He did not come back to chew out everyone for allowing Him to be crucified. It was all in the plan. I would think that Jesus Himself would appreciate us remembering Him with a smile on His face, and not a face full of pain. *We should* remember His pain, but only for a moment, and remember the price He paid for us, but then we should rejoice over what He bought for us. Rejoice with Him.

So, when I look at this "Happy Jesus" picture - I imagine a good caption would be *"We did good, Father, We did good!!"*

Thank You, Jesus for taking my place, and dying my death. I rejoice in what You've done for me, just as You rejoice over my salvation! Thank you for paying the ultimate price and in doing so, not just FORGAVE my sin, but REMOVED my sin-nature that compelled me to sin. That's something to be happy about!

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