

THE NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION, CIVIL RESISTANCE, DIVINE OBEDIENCE, PEACEFUL REVOLUTION, AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE OF JESUS CHRIST

Action	Beneficiary	Opponent	Immediate Function	Social & Symbolic Function
Public Exorcism in Synagogue (Mark 1:23-26)	A Resident of Capernaum	Bad spirits; including Empires	The person is liberated from destructive normalcy and from participation in the Roman occupation.	Jesus can liberate people and religious places from demonic spirits of empire, from being possessed by violence and war, so they can live in freedom of nonviolence, love and peace.
Healing the Leper (Mark 1:40-45)	Galilean	Leprosy & Overbearing Law Enforcers	Marginalized/unclean person is healed, Jesus successfully restores him to full dignity in society.	Jesus breaks taboos in his touch, ends cleanliness laws, restoring those who are alienated or marginalized. Together we can defy social and religious barriers as part of healing a sick culture,
Eating with Levi and other Sinners/Outcasts (Mt 9:9-13) (Mk 2:13-17) (Lk 5:27-32)	Levi & the Outcasts	Pharisees & Scribes	Levi and other tax collectors receive some dignity in associating with Jesus.	Jesus teaches his opponents: "the healthy don't need a doctor, the sick people do." Those who are alienated can be restored in community.
Sabbath Offense: Healing Man's Hand (Mt 12:9-14) (Mk 3:1-6) (Lk 6:6-11)	Man	Pharisees & Herodians	The man's hand is healed; Pharisees get angry at the idea of healing on Sabbath	Jesus educates all that good deeds are do-able on the Sabbath. Challenge the religious structure that oppresses and hurts poor folks in the name of God.
Sabbath Offense: Healing Woman (Luke 13:10-17)	Woman	Synagogue Chief & Satan	18 years of social oppression which drained her health is finished; she is healed.	Calling her, "Daughter of Abraham" Christ smashes the violence of sexism & classism. Women's social status grows beyond what religious men held dearly.
Sabbath Offense: Plucking Grain (Mt 12:1-8) (Mk 2:23-28) (Lk 6:1-5)	Disciples of Christ	Pharisees & Synagogue Elders	Priorities get in proper order; Hungry disciples get fed; Pharisees get angered.	Jesus educates all that the sabbath is a gift to people. The Son of Humanity is lord of the sabbath. Jesus challenges the religious structure that oppresses and hurts poor folks in the name of God.
Negotiating with Militaristic Demon Choosing To Drown (Mt. 8:28-34) (Mk. 5:1-20) (Lk. 8:26-39)	All People of Gerasene District	The Economy, Legion & Roman Empire	Destroy the local economy by liberating Gerasenians from Romans. Get banished!	Jesus met 2000 soldiers occupying a community which wanted to continue being occupied in slavery/oppression. One victim is converted to nonviolence and 2000 pigs die.
Health code violation (Mark 7:1-23) (Luke 11: 37-43)	Lay Persons	Pharisees & Lawyers	Remind everyone: the law/code is meant to serve justice.	Jesus challenges the social control practiced by the hypocritical Pharisees and Sadducees.
Loving Enemies (Mt.15:21-28) (Mk.7:24-30)	Canaanites and Greeks	Canaanites and Greeks	Peoples needs are met, enemies too receive dignity and truth.	Jesus stops being exclusive—teaches disciples that everyone is invited into God's Kingdom.
Donkey Procession (Mt. 21:1-9) (Mk.11:1-10) (Lk. 19:29-42) (Jn12:12-15)	All People of Jerusalem	Soldiers, Kings & Emperors	Street theater for the sake of the True Hero mocks Pilate.	Jesus fulfills the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9. and inaugurates the Eternal Reign of Nonviolence.
Turning Over The Tables of Moneychangers (Mt.21:12-17) (Mk.11:15-18) (Lk. 19:45-48) (Jn2:13-25)	Poor Folks & All Humans	Religious Hypocrites	Says NO to temple authorities' complicity with Empire, stops business as usual for the day.	Challenge the religious oppression of poor folks, shows the voice of God is in each person, that we can live as if we are the temple ALL the time!
Advocating Tax Resistance (Mt. 12:13-17) (Mt. 22:15-22) (Lk 20:20-26)	All Civilians	Nation-States	Giving everything to God, Jesus has nothing for Caesar's fund!	In an act of revolution, Jesus risks the death penalty by undermining the funding of war & empire.
The Resurrection (Mt. 27:62-28:20) (Mk. 16:1-15) (Lk. 24:1-12)	Humanity	Violence, War, Death, Empire	Jesus is back alive with us. Death is not final; Nonviolence is a viable miracle.	In defiance of totally legal crucifixions, Jesus makes a peaceful resurrection part of the revolution. We can boldly risk our lives resisting the culture of death.

