

# *Good Friday or Bad Friday?*

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At the heart of Christian faith lies the belief in God's presence and power in Jesus of Nazareth, as testified to Christians' belief in incarnation and the resurrection. Recent scholarship emphasizes that the parables of Jesus be interpreted in the context of Second Temple Judaism. However, the passion narratives are quite another story. Historically, interpretations of the death of Jesus fed anti-Jewish sentiments and actions. The Via Dolorosa has consequently been a path of pain for Jews also. How can Christians talk about Good Friday—and at the same time honor their commitment to foster improved Jewish-Christian relations in a world harassed by violence, torture, and death? In this talk, Jesper Svartvik presented his latest book *Reconciliation and Transformation: Reconsidering Christian Theologies of the Cross* (Wipf & Stock, 2021) and discussed good and bad Good Friday theologies.



*"It is with great joy that I learn that Jesper Svartvik's liberating knowledge once again will be shared with the English-speaking world. His deep knowledge in the Bible and Jewish life, as well as his understanding of early Jewish-Christian relations, offer us the possibility to liberate the cross of Jesus from violence, and ourselves from inherited misconceptions about those of the people of God with whom we share the larger part of the Bible." —K.G. HAMMAR, Archbishop emeritus, Church of Sweden*



Jesper Svartvik is the author of twelve books, which include his doctoral thesis *Mark and Mission: Mk 7:11-23 in Its Narrative and Historical Contexts* (Almqvist & Wiksell International, 2000) and *Reconciliation and Transformation: Reconsidering Christian Theologies of the Cross* (Wipf & Stock, 2021), and the co-editor of four volumes: *Christ Jesus and the Jewish People Today: New Explorations of Theological Interrelationships* (Eerdmans, 2011; Italian translation: Gregorian & Biblical Press, 2012), *Religious Stereotyping and Interreligious Relations* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013), *Krister Among the Jews and Gentiles: Essays in Appreciation of the Life and Work of Krister Stendahl* (Paulist Press, 2018), and *Enabling Dialogue about the Land: A Resource Book for Jews and Christians* (Paulist Press, 2020).