


The Stripping of Jesus

Matthew 27: 26-31

Dr. Rocio Figueroa

Biblical and theological resources for responding to sexual abuse/harm.

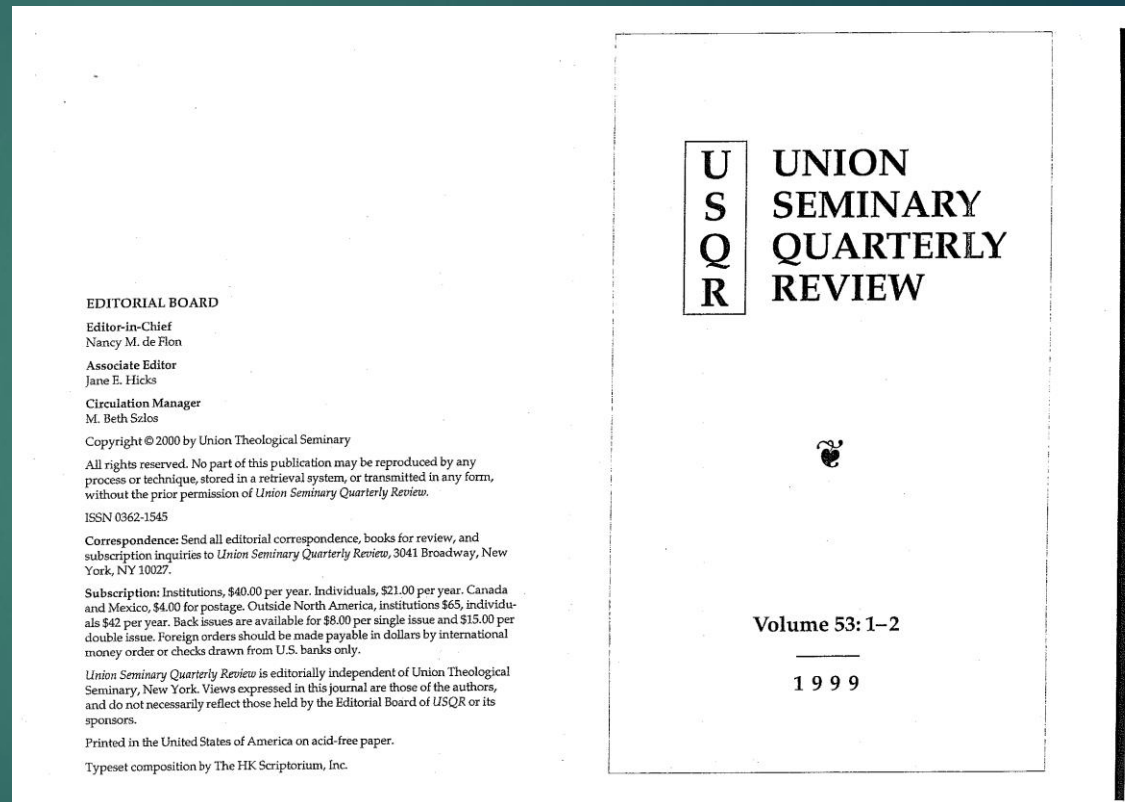
If you were asked for resources from Christian tradition that you might draw upon to respond to sexual abuse/harm what would you think of and draw upon?

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- ▶ This session is going to explore a less obvious resource for your toolkit. Because it raises challenging questions you would have to consider how, when, and where to best raise it. But it is good to have a sense of it as part of a bigger picture.

How do you react to this statement?

Jesus was a victim of sexual abuse

Reading crucifixion in light of torture reports



David Tombs, 'Crucifixion, State Terror and Sexual Abuse', *Union Seminary Quarterly Review* 53 (Autumn 1999), pp. 89-108. <http://hdl.handle.net/10523/6067>

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#HimToo – why Jesus should be recognised as a victim of sexual violence

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Disclosure statement

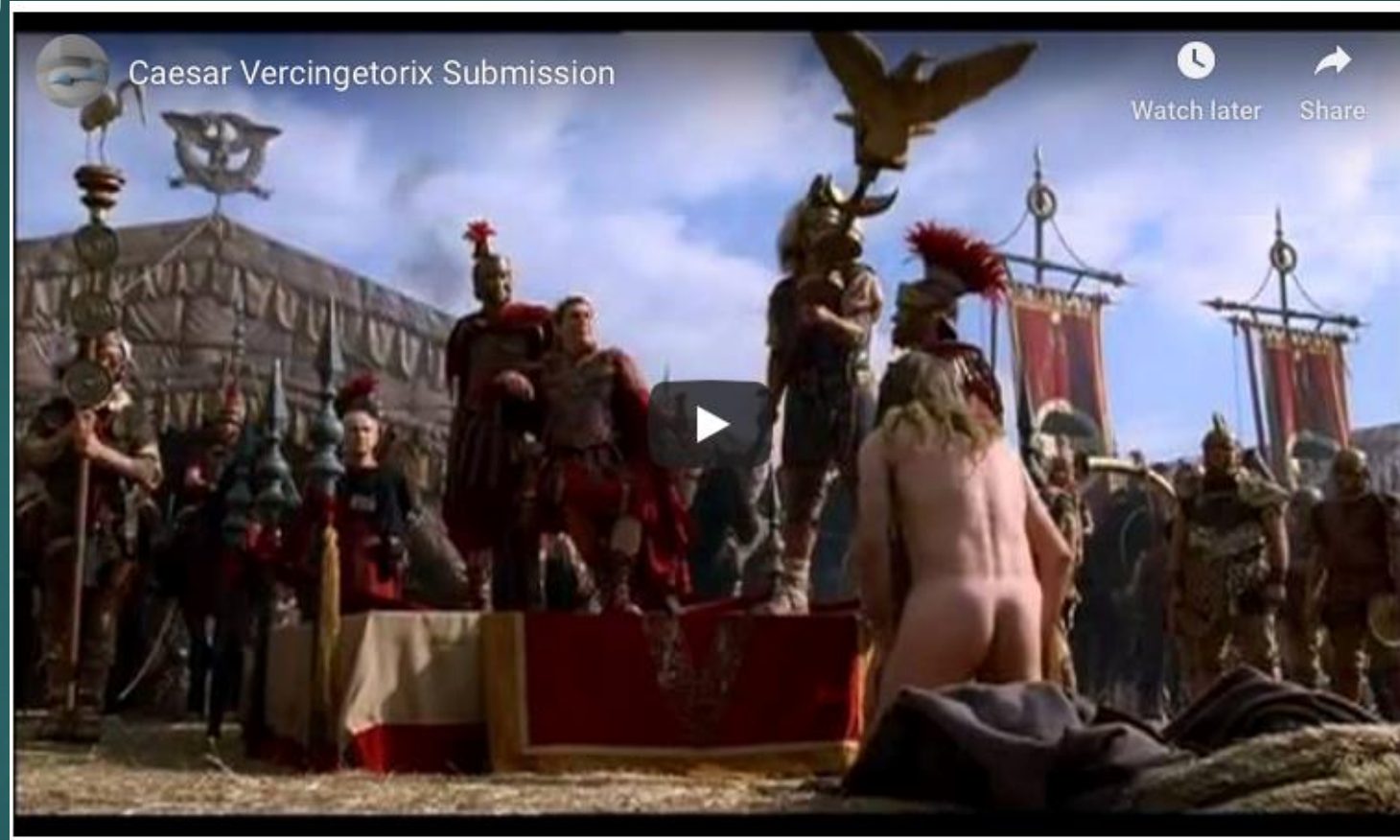
Katie Edwards works for the University of Sheffield. She receives funding from the AHRC and the White Rose Collaboration Fund. She co-directs The Shioh Project, a collaboration between academics at the Universities of Sheffield, Leeds and Auckland to explore rape culture, religion, and the Bible.

David Tombs works for the University of Otago, New Zealand, and is a Research Affiliate at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa. He contributes work to the Shioh project <http://shioh-project.group.shef.ac.uk/tag-david-tombs>

Partners

Katie B. Edwards and David Tombs. '#HimToo – why Jesus should be recognised as a victim of sexual violence'. *The Conversation* (23 March 2018). <https://theconversation.com/himtoo-why-jesus-should-be-recognised-as-a-victim-of-sexual-violence-93677>

Surrender of Vercingetorix in *Rome* (2005)



Vercingetorix YouTube clip from the *Rome* HBO Series (2005)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xkl5ovfANO8>

Matthew 27:26-31. The Stripping of Jesus

²⁶ So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. ²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰ They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹ After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Matthew 27:26-31. The Stripping of Jesus

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Implications

- ▶ Return to your first thoughts and your reactions to the statement 'Jesus was a victim of sexual abuse', is there anything you think or feel differently about this now in light of Matthew 27:26-31?
- ▶ To what extent is there a stigma associated with the statement that Jesus was a victim of sexual abuse? If a stigma is involved, how might that impact on recognition of Jesus as a victim of sexual abuse?
- ▶ Feminist scholars once asked 'Can a male savior save women'. In response to this reading of crucifixion, some have asked, 'Can a sexually abused savior save anyone?' How would you unpack and/or respond to this?
- ▶ How does our sense of ourselves as being the body of Christ change in light of this?

Open Access Publications

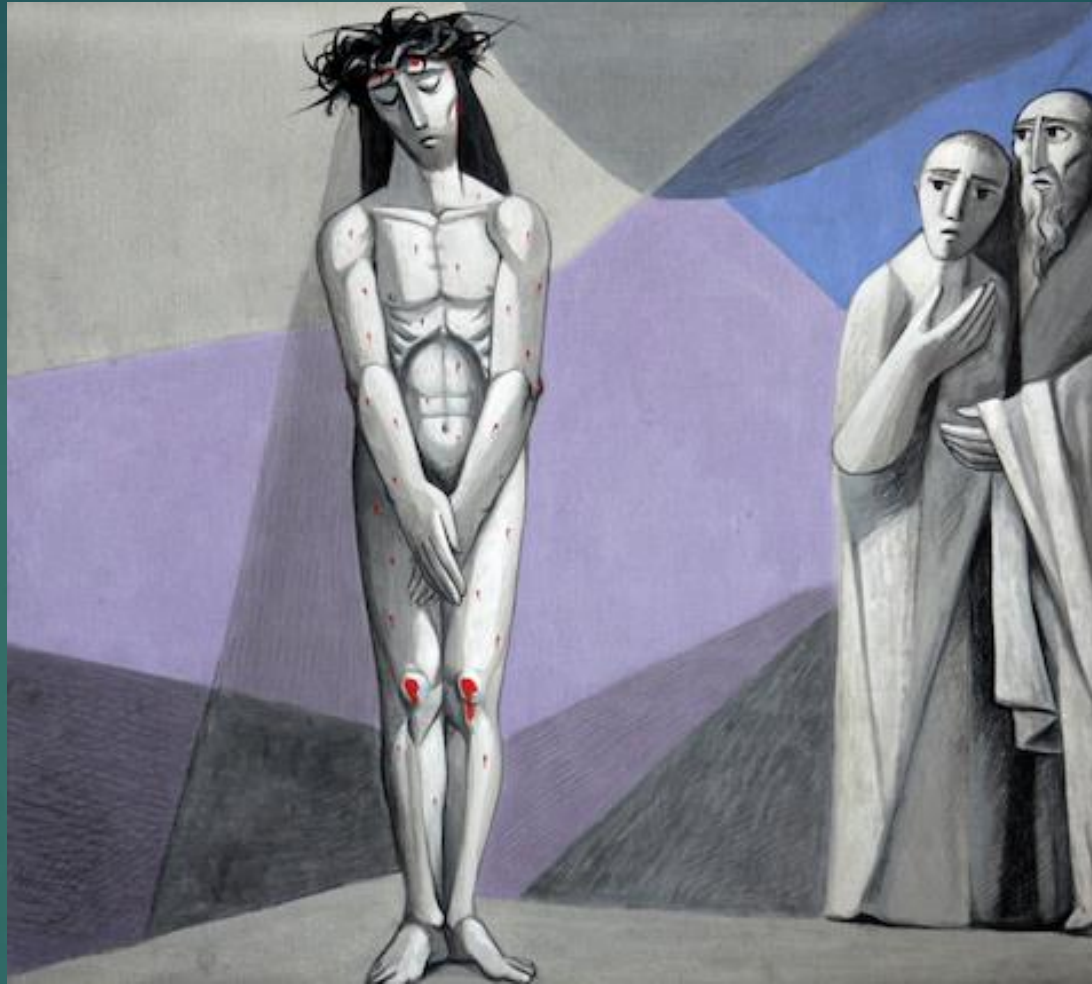
Rocío Figueroa Alvear and David Tombs. *Recognising Jesus as a Victim of Sexual Abuse: Responses from Sodaliccio Survivors in Peru*. Dunedin: Centre for Theology and Public Issues, University of Otago, 2018.

<http://hdl.handle.net/10523/8976>

Katie B. Edwards and David Tombs. '#HimToo – why Jesus should be recognised as a victim of sexual violence', *The Conversation* (23 March 2018). <https://theconversation.com/himtoo-why-jesus-should-be-recognised-as-a-victim-of-sexual-violence-93677>

David Tombs, 'Crucifixion, State Terror, and Sexual Abuse', *Union Seminary Quarterly Review*, 53 (Autumn 1999), pp. 89-109.

<http://hdl.handle.net/10523/6067>



10th Station of the Cross, Jesus is stripped of His garments, Church of the Holy Trinity,
Gemünden am Main, Germany © Zatlatic Dreamstime.com