

Student Essay on The Crucible: How is Proctor Like Jesus?

The Crucible: How is Proctor Like Jesus? by Arthur Miller

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Contents

[Student Essay on The Crucible: How is Proctor Like Jesus?.....1](#)

[Contents.....2](#)

[Essay.....3](#)



Essay

No way is John Proctor a Christ-like figure. One big reason why he is not a Christ-like figure is his adulterous ways. Another reason why he is not a Christ-like figure is that he committed adultery. Not only is it a crime but it is one of the Ten Commandments that he broke. Proctor's affair with Abigail, "You loved me, John Proctor, and whatever sin it is, you love me yet! John, pity me, pity me!" (24), later brings him to his death. All Puritans followed the Ten Commandments. If you break one, you break all. Furthermore, he does not even remember his commandments. All Puritans had to have the Ten Commandments memorized. Proctor remembers them all but one, "Thou shalt not bear false witness. He is stuck. He counts back on his fingers, knowing one is missing. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image" (67). During this scene, Proctor says the last commandment twice and has to be reminded about the one he forgot to say, ironically, adultery. Another factor that makes him not Christ-like is the lack of baptism of his children. The reasoning behind him not baptizing his children is that he does not like Rev. Parris, "I like it not that Mr. Parris should lay his hand upon my baby. I see no light of God in that man. I'll not conceal it" (65). Rev. Hale of Beverly believes that Proctor should have his children baptized because, "I must say it, Mr. Proctor; that is not for you to decide. The man's ordained, therefore the light of God is in him" (66). Proctor also admits to Cheever that he plows and works on Sunday. Puritans are supposed to be at the church on Sundays. "I- I have once or twice plowed on Sunday. I have three children, sir, and until last year my land give little" (91). The lack of following his own religion is what makes John Proctor not Christ-like.