

Hope Revolution- Maybe our cause is too small?

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BIG IDEA – Hope is a person NOT an idea or a cause.

scripture focus - 1 Peter 1:3-5 NIV “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he **has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Mark 16:1-7 NLT

“Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus' body. **Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb. On the way they were asking each other, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?”** But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside. When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, but **the angel said, “Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead!** Look, this is where they laid his body. Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died.”

Maybe our causes are way too small? When looking for a just cause, make sure you pick a great one! It must be more than just an equitable cause or even a wildly popular one. If you're going to live and possibly die for this cause and be willing to sell or sacrifice everything to support your chosen revolution, make sure it is truly

worth it. People wanted Jesus to FIX everything that was wrong with the cultural milieu of his day. Certainly, Jesus permanently rocked and revolutionized so many systemic, inhumane ancient norms we take for granted today. But Jesus had his eye on something MUCH bigger. Rome's throne was way too small for what God had in mind!

So if it's **systemic racism, indigenous inequality, the unhoused, social injustice, women's productive rights, school shootings or the environment**, I hope your heroes are big enough to solve the problems we are dividedly-determined to dedicate our lives too.

Whether you are a believer in Jesus or not a believer in God at all. I want to remind you about what this day, Easter, is really all about. It's a celebration of the most monumental revolution that has ever taken place in human history.

Let's talk about the life and global changes Jesus initiated, not just from his own life and sermons, but also from the community of followers and passionate believers he left in charge of this revolution.

Jesus started and finished something that no other hero or revolutionary figure has ever accomplished. He died and came back to life and turned over His cause to his followers.

If you're smart, really smart you understand the first part is absolutely true – **history proves that Jesus lived and died**. There is no question about it. **Folks need to quit believing that Jesus was on the same level as the flat-earth and fake moon landing conspiracies!**

If you are a person of faith or even if you're not you need to understand, **the second part is absolutely true as well – Jesus resurrected from the dead and is alive to fulfill the promise of God's Kingdom coming and God's will be done.**

The writers of the New Testament took this very seriously!

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 NLT

"I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. **He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive,** though some have died. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him."

Paul, an expert in Jewish law and culture pushed this **proof of Christ raising from the dead even further.**

1 Corinthians 15:12-19 NLT

"But tell me this—since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead? For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. And **if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. And we apostles would all be lying about God—for we have said that God raised Christ from the grave.** But that can't be true if there is no resurrection of the dead. And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. And **if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless, and you are still guilty of your sins. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.**"

But for argument's sake, let's just suppose you don't believe Jesus rose from the dead, and that all this religious stuff is just some kind of emotional crutch to get us through this life.

Then let me tell you what Jesus started that was so world changing that it still exists today. Jesus led a revolution of spiritual and social change that is **the reason you have the idea to fight** about all the causes you care about today.

What was Jesus' cause? What was his campaign, his goal, his life, and death all about? What did Jesus want to accomplish?

Jesus wanted to create a personal revolution in each and every soul ever created. Jesus' cause was all of humanity.

That is a very big cause! And that would take an extraordinary leader, an exceptional revolutionary.

- **Jesus promoted peace over armed conflict.** Telling people to “turn the other cheek,” and to pray for their enemy rather than hate them (Matthew 5:39, 43-48).
- **Jesus taught his disciples to live as citizens of God's Kingdom,** radically different than the political, religious, or even business leaders in his day. He was **holding them to a strict behavioral and moral code of ethics. Jesus was especially keen on protecting the poor, the widow and orphan** (Matthew 25:40, 45; Matthew 11:4-6; Luke 14:12-14, 16-24; Luke 6:21-22)
- **He lifted children to a place of visibility** where they were not only to be seen and heard but blessed and even to be emulated (Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17).
- **He raised the life and personhood of women,** giving them **places of honor, respect, and purpose.** Not only did Jesus have women among those who followed him, they were forever memorialized as the first to arrive and testify his own resurrection (John 2:1-12; Luke 8:1-3, 43-48; John 8:1-11).
- **He hit racism head on** by casting Samaritans and Gentiles in his stories of faith. **Jesus chose to reveal who he was, THE Messiah, to a Samaritan woman** at Jacob's well (John 4). And chose to make a hero out of a samaritan traveler (Luke 10:25-37).
- **He spent time with outcasts and marginalized** that the religious elite not only avoided but despised. Eating and socializing with tax collectors, sex workers, beggars and physically disabled (Luke 7:36-50; Matthew 9:10-17; Mark 2:15-22; Luke 5:29-39).
- **We taken these human causes and even rights for granted for over 2000 years, but culture and society in general ignored and actively avoided these ideals. These were radical behaviors in ancient Roman, Greek, and Jewish culture.**

What conqueror, king, world leader, president, or dictator can say they lived, died, and came back to life? And what revolutionary has the power to make permanent, even eternal change happen? What just cause, what protest or riot has you and ALL HUMANS IN mind?

Although Jesus introduced so many radical ideas, reversing years of what was standard religious and social practices, the most radical, revolutionary cause was to save YOU, save ME!

Do not be mistaken. Christ's cause is YOU; Christ's revolution is for all humans, and it is NOT of this world nor about our personal kingdoms!

The Apostle Peter wrote it for us to be crystal clear...

1 Peter 1:3-5 NIV "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he **has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time."

Hope is a person NOT an idea or a cause!

The hope revolution means that it is for us and this day, unlike any other day, any other holiday PROVES that God keeps his promises and has the power to save, restore, redeem your life and every other life who believes in Jesus!

The revolution is real, the hope is Jesus himself and it is worth dedicating your life to following Jesus both for life here and life in the hereafter.

NOTES

Scriptures

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if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.”

Acts 2:22-28 NLT

“People of Israel, listen! **God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know.** But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. But **God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip. King David said this about him:** ‘I see that the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. No wonder my heart is glad, and my tongue shouts his praises! My body rests in hope. **For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your Holy One to rot in the grave.** You have shown me the way of life, and you will fill me with the joy of your presence.’”

Hosea 2:14-15 NLT

“But then I will win her back once again. I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her there. I will return her vineyards to her and **transform the Valley of Trouble into a gateway of hope.** She will give herself to me there, as she did long ago when she was young, when I freed her from her captivity in Egypt.”

John 18:36-37 NLT “Jesus answered, “**My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom.** If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. **But my Kingdom is not of this world.**” Pilate said, “So you are a king?” Jesus responded, “You say I am a king. **Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth.** All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true.”

Resurrection Sunday

What Is the Meaning of Easter and Why Do We Celebrate it?

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/what-is-the-meaning-of-easter-and-why-do-we-celebrate-it.html>

Questions

- Q: What are the causes and concerns most important to you?
- Q: Have you been able to identify the cause leader?
- Q: What do you think about Jesus as a revolutionary? Is it true?
- Q: What cultural, religious or societal issues did Jesus challenge?
- Q: How did Jesus choose to go about changes those issues?

Q: How effective do you think Jesus' disciples were at keeping the changes going? How about the Church today?

COMMENTARY REFERENCES

Internet Links

[Grace to you – What the resurrection proves.](#)

We do not celebrate an event. We do not remember a dead Savior. We are not attracted by painfully distorted crucifixes. We worship, we love, we live every day in the presence of a risen, living Lord Jesus Christ. So every day is an Easter celebration for us. Every day is resurrection day. That doesn't mean it's wrong to focus on this in a special way. While the world's attention is brought to Christ, we wanna take every opportunity to speak of our Lord's resurrection, for that is ever and always our message; and for a brief time today, I want us to look at the resurrection. I suppose most times we are drawn to deal with the skeptics, and we're drawn to ask the question, "What proves the resurrection?" But I don't wanna deal with that question today. I think that question has been answered already myriad of times. The proof of the resurrection is so complete that only willful unbelief is still asking for more. I'm not interested today in the question, "What proves the resurrection?" I'm interested in the question, "What does the resurrection prove?"

Summary of Messages – Hope Revolution:

- Part One: **Right revolution, wrong throne.** What if your revolution is for the wrong cause?
- Part Two: **Maybe our cause is too small?** Hope is a person NOT an idea or a cause.
- Part Three:
- Part Four: