

CAN I GET A REVOLUTION?

What is a revolution? Dictionary.com calls it a drastic and far-reaching change in ways of thinking and behaving. There have been numerous revolutions throughout history. The American Revolution was a revolt against the British government by the Americans in order to establish their own government system and the country as we now know it. The French Revolution was a revolution in France against the Bourbons. In all revolutions, there are certain individuals who led the way to change. Jesus Christ was a revolutionary. Through His words, actions, and life, He changed the world. Can you think of any other man whose beliefs and words spread across and changed much of the world as we know it?

Jesus Christ changed the way that people lived then and how they viewed religion. His love and compassion for people drew others to Him and the hope that He offered gave others a reason to keep living. Even today, when a sinner gets saved, their life is completely revolutionized. We no longer have the same desires, wants, or needs in our life. Our life is turned around and completely changed from what it was before we met Christ. Today, in the society we live in, we need a Christian revolution. We need to stand up for what and who we believe and turn our society around for Jesus Christ. We have to be serious about what we believe to completely revolutionize our society for Christ. Do we have what it takes to be a revolutionary? Are we bold enough in our Christian faith to stand up for what we believe in? Do we have the desires and belief to tell others about Christ and change our world for Him? Can we get a revolution?

Mark 2:13-22; 3:1-6

JESUS CHANGED OUR VIEW ABOUT...

SINNERS

Taxes - everybody hates to pay them, but they are a part of life. In the days when Jesus walked the earth, some people held the occupation of tax collector. These people were hated among the common folk because many would take in more money than was required in order to pad their own pockets. People all around the area did not like them and the tax collectors were viewed as sinners. When Jesus went out He met a tax collector, Levi, A.K.A Matthew, and went to the collector's house to eat dinner. Inside the house, Jesus dined with tax collectors and sinners. The Pharisees could not believe that Jesus, claiming to be a man of God, would eat and associate with sinners. Jesus, on the other hand, verified that it is not the healthy people that need a doctor, but it is the sick. Jesus showed us that it is the sinners who do need Christ, and we should not be so religious that we do not try to meet their needs. Jesus wanted the Pharisees to realize that He did not come for the people who already assumed that they were righteous, but rather came for those who knew they were sinners.

SERVICE

The Pharisees were all about following rules. They found their righteousness in being able to follow all of the rules and regulations. In this scenario, they wanted to know why Jesus' disciples did not fast, which was seen as something righteous, as John's disciples did. Jesus wanted them to know that His disciples did not have to fast at the time because He was still with them. He used the analogy of a wedding feast. While the groom is at the wedding, no one fasts. Jesus was saying that while He was with them in bodily form, there was no reason for His disciples to fast. Jesus then used the analogy of the wine skins and the garments. He talked about how you could not put a new patch on an old cloth or new wine in an old wine skin. Using these examples, Jesus was explaining to the Pharisees that He had not come to add on to the old covenant, or old wineskins, but rather He had come as a new covenant. Under the old covenant, all the attention was put toward following the laws, but under the new covenant of grace, service to others is important. Jesus did not come to add on or upgrade the old covenant, but rather came to fulfill a new covenant for us all. We must be careful not to fall into the act of adding to religion and law, becoming too stiff to allow for new ways of reaching others for Christ.

STANDARDS

Once again, the religious leaders were thinking very highly of themselves because they kept all the laws, even oral traditions that men had made up on their own. Most of these men did not even consider the situation in question, but just followed the rules no matter what the circumstances. Jesus asked them if it was more important to follow the rules or to allow a man to be healed? These men were more concerned with keeping every part of the law, that they continuously overlooked the needs of the people around them. The ironic point of this story is that the Pharisees looked down upon Jesus for healing on the Sabbath, but thought it okay to plot how they would murder Him on the Holy Day. We should never become so religious that we overlook the problems and needs of others all around us. Jesus gave us a great example to follow in that meeting the needs of others was the most important thing in His ministry.

The Pharisees and many others viewed Jesus as a revolutionary. He completely changed the way individuals during that time viewed the law and God. He developed a religion and followers that would soon spread all across the globe. We must be revolutionary. We must find a way to make our stand for Christ bold and noticeable. We need to stand up for what we believe in and revolutionize the world we live in for Jesus Christ.

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