

## Column – Join the Jesus revolution!

Nothing short of a revolution began when Jesus came out of the tomb that first Easter morning. History turned the corner and will never be the same. In one dramatic moment, death, man's oldest and most persistent enemy, met its match. All the prophecies and foreshadowings in what we call today the Old Testament came surging forward and took shape and form, including the one found in Genesis 3:15 about the Seed of women crushing Satan's head.

Nothing short of a revolution is needed today for the kingdom Jesus inaugurated to be realized in our world. The beloved writer and theologian J.I. Packer gives us a picture of what such a revolution looks like: "God comes down; God's Word comes home; God's purity comes through; God's people come alive; outsiders come in."

A foreshadowing of such a revolution took place during the reign of good King Josiah (c. 639-609 B.C.). His story is written up in 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles. Josiah was boy of eight when he began to reign.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> year of his reign, the “book of the law” was discovered during a renovation of the Temple. When the book was presented to Josiah, he not only read it himself, but ordered it be read to the people of his kingdom.

Out from the reading of this book, came a return to the precepts laid out in the covenant God had made with His people at Sinai. All forms of idol worship were repudiated, and the spiritual worship which pleases God was reinstated.

“God’s Word came home; God’s people came alive.” But, did in fact outsiders come in? No, not really, and that was always a problem with Israel of old. Though called by God to be lights to the nations, this concept was never fully understood or embraced. I might add, just as it is not always understood or embraced by God’s people today.

Be that as it may, the revolution we seek today must include all the components Dr. Packer mentioned, including the last: “Outsiders came in.”

It was Dr. William Temple, a former Archbishop of Canterbury, who said that the Church is the only institution that exists for those

outside itself. There is certainly truth in Dr. Temple's words.

God's call is not for His people to be little ornamental figurines of piety destined for display in His celestial china cabinet. Rather, His call is to be witnesses in the world. Like Israel of old, we are called to be light bearers, in our community, in our country, in the world.

The Church as well as Western society in general stands in need of a spiritual awakening, but where must such an awakening begin? With awakened people. God's word must come home, God's people must come alive, and God's people must go out. Will you be one of these awakened people . . . a revolutionary?

*ALMIGHTY God, who hast created man in thine own image; Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil, and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice among men and nations, to the glory of thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*  
(Book of Common Prayer)

*The Rev. Victor H. Morgan is rector of St.  
Luke's Episcopal Church, Blue Ridge.*