

# **JOURNAL OF AGGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY**

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## **Editorial Introduction**

by Major Stephen Court, editor

Greetings in Jesus' name. Welcome to the 137th issue of Journal of Christianity, JAC137. We're excited to build on the JAC legacy with this issue, offering some timely content as we crawl out of pandemic and prepare for Palm Sunday and Resurrection Day.

Lieutenant Scott Swires leads off JAC137 with 'Overcoming the Fear of What Comes Next'. It's short and faith-filled and will help you posture yourself Biblical for the rest of this season.

The rest of the issue comes from your editor, a smattering of message drafts for people looking to gain seasonal drafts (think Palm Sunday, Resurrection Day, New Year, and more), incomplete enough that preachers can make them their own. Here they are:

Lonely In Families - How about Psalm 68:6 for a year theme?

Mark 12 Parable - that's a tough parable? How to redeem that?

One Another - In The Spirit - This is a different take on Philippians 2 than you usually get.

Jesus Has Business With It - Palm Sunday Rush.

Holy Resurrection Day - Holy, indeed.

On The Witness Stand.- Paul in court in Acts 26 offering a template for Salvos.

And that's it for JAC137. Thanks for your patronage. If you are still looking for content, you can scroll through 136 issues in the archives.

We trust that these contributions can stimulate warfighting on your front, helping you accelerate the advance of the salvation war to toward world conquest. God grant it.

## **Overcoming the Fear of What Comes Next**

By Lieutenant Scott Swires

What was your favorite TV show of all time? Were you one of the viewers anticipating the reveal of Ted's wife on *How I Met Your Mother*? Over 5 million people watched the last episode of *The Office*. I was with 52 million others and Ross screaming for Rachel to get off the plane. Were you one of the 100 million Americans watching "Goodbye, Farewell, and Amen", the last episode of *Mash* on February 28th, 1983? *Mash* lasted 11 years even though the Korean War lasted three. Like B.J., it was hard to tell Hawkeye goodbye.

Saying goodbye to tv shows can be emotionally difficult because we're often saying goodbye to a season of life. It's hard saying goodbye to Hawkeye, Ross, and even J.R. But, why? Graham Cooke, a Christian speaker, once said, "I know exactly where you're at. You don't want to be where you are, you know you definitely don't want to go backwards, but you're not too crazy about what's out there." The space between our past and future is something Rabbi's call the void. I think many of us feel like we've been in a void that has now lasted two years. So how do we navigate the void?

First, we need to acknowledge that we cannot avoid it. Change is constantly happening to all creation. We need to recognize the ebbs and flow of life. It is possible to learn them so well that we can anticipate them and prepare for them. Psychologist like Piaget and Erikson attempted to recognize how everyone has a common series of changes that we experience in life in the hopes to navigate them well. Each transition point could be seen as a crisis that need overcome. No matter if you're a toddler or senior, we all experience seasons of the void.

Second, we need to understand that the anxiety we face in the void are manifestations of fears we have. "What keeps you up at night?" This is a favorite question of one of my leaders. The void exposes the things that we think are greater than God. Money, intimacy, beauty, skills, value... These are just some of the giants we can face in the void. The question is will run quickly to the battle, like David, or hang out with everyone else doing their best to ignore the shift that is happening (1 Samuel 17:48).

Finally, we need to believe that the process is good. Hebrews 11:8 talks about how Abraham went out not knowing where he was going. You are not doing bad at life if you feel confused or lost. You're not weird or failing in any way. You're normal. God gives us this opportunity to help us stop depending on our strength and depend on His. This void is the place of where we can mature our relationship with Him and we need this level of relationship for what He has for you. It is in the void we again choose to believe that God works out all thing for good (Romans 8:28) and that the One who promises we will be okay is faithful to keep His promise (Hebrews 11:11). You will have the power to run toward any change in season knowing that God is on the other side promising everything with be okay.

## Lonely In Families

By Major Stephen Court  
(Message notes)

Extended family story: Military denominations: SA chaplain- everyone else –all you who don't belong to any of them? You belong to us.

Year in preview.

Kevin Williamson: "We hear in the traditional account of the Nativity that "there was no room at the inn," but many contemporary scholars believe that this translation represents a mishandling of the Greek, which specifies not a pandokheion, an ordinary commercial inn, but a kataluma, something quite different: the guest room in a family home. (I am indebted to the Reverend David Rea of Providence Presbyterian Church in Dallas for this insight.) That is a very different story: Mary and Joseph were not turned away by an overbooked hotelier but by their own family, who were no doubt filled with shame and indignation at Mary's irregular condition."

Psalm 68:6 - God sets the lonely in families.

Guilt / innocence culture. Gospel presentations crafted in that worldview.

Honour / shame culture. (think honour killings, for example) People in these kind of cultures don't 'get' Gospel presentations crafted for a guilt / innocence worldview.

Does that make sense?

GodTools app – explain the newer version of the Gospel for Honour / Shame culture.  
<https://godtoolsapp.com/tools/honor-restored/demo/>

GET people to DOWNLOAD IT NOW.

WALK THROUGH IT.

And then note how a friend working with younger people figured it'd be great for that generation because of the ubiquitous SHAME CULTURE. Not what the developers first intended.

And then, I've been thinking, it seems to work for a lot of us, too, doesn't it? I mean, SHAME? HONOUR? Our families? Our corps? Ourselves?

It all seems to fit.

Now, many of us live around people who are absorbed in an honour/shame culture; many work with such people; some go to school with them. This is intended to inform our approaches. And for the rest of us, who don't, well let's remember that we

ourselves, our extended families, and our corps might be able to relate better than we'd comfortably admit.

Might 2022 be a year in which God puts lonely people in families?

In which we make room for those in shame?

During which we leverage English café and food bank and music academy and each of our initiatives to express the love of Jesus, to welcome those who are lonely, to help people belong?

## Mark 12 Parable

By Major Stephen Court

Today is The Day of Salvation

Mark 11- Triumphal entry.

*v9 'Hosanna!' 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'*

*v10 'Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!'*

*'Hosanna in the highest heaven!'*

Psalm 118

*v25 Lord, save us! Lord, grant us success!*

*v26 Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*From the house of the Lord we bless you.*

Verses later, Jesus 'cleanses' the temple, overturning the tables of the money changers.

And then, back in Mark 11...

*28 'By what authority are you doing these things?' they asked. 'And who gave you authority to do this?' 29 Jesus replied, 'I will ask you one question. Answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. 30 John's baptism – was it from heaven, or of human origin? Tell me!' 31 They discussed it among themselves and said, 'If we say, "From heaven," he will ask, "Then why didn't you believe him?" 32 But if we say, "Of human origin" . . .' (They feared the people, for everyone held that John really was a prophet.) 33 So they answered Jesus, 'We don't know.' Jesus said, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.'*

But then He decides to tell them about His authority! (in our parable for today)...

### **Jesus then began to speak to them in parables:**

*4:10 When Jesus was alone, some of those who had heard Him came to Him with the twelve disciples and asked Him to explain the parables. 11 "You have been given the secret of the Kingdom of God," Jesus answered. "But the others, who are on the outside, hear all things by means of parables, 12 so that,*

*'They may look and look,  
yet not see;*

*they may listen and listen,  
yet not understand.*

*For if they did, they would turn to God,  
and He would forgive them.'"*

Stories such as these are easily remembered, the characters bold, and the symbolism rich in meaning. Also, saying everything point blank accelerates the repercussions – Jesus seems to be stringing things out as long as He needs to set everything up.

Mark 12

**v1 'A man planted a vineyard.**

Now, this is a fresh version of Isaiah 5:

Isaiah 5:1-5+ *Let me sing now for my well-beloved A song of my beloved concerning His vineyard. My well-beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hill. 2 He dug it all around, removed its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine. And He built a tower in the middle of it And also hewed out a wine vat in it; Then He expected it to produce good grapes, But it produced only worthless ones. 3 "And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, Judge between Me and My vineyard. 4 "What more was there to do for My vineyard that I have not done in it? Why, when I expected it to produce good grapes did it produce worthless ones? 5 "So now let Me tell you what I am going to do to My vineyard: I will remove its hedge and it will be consumed; I will break down its wall and it will become trampled ground.*

**v1 He put a wall round it, dug a pit for the winepress and built a watchtower.**

God is the vineyard owner. And He put a lot of work into it. He invested in it. God arranged for its protection, for its provision, for its proliferation. (and profitability)

**v1 Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place.**

This was Jesus looking back at history. The leaders of Jews take on the responsibility and privileges of this agreement.

**v2 At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants to collect from them some of the fruit of the vineyard.**

The servant represents prophets God dispatched.

**v3 But they seized him, beat him and sent him away empty-handed.**

What? The farmers figured they'd rather keep the privileges without the responsibilities. They were in effect rejecting their accountability to higher authority. Keep that in mind as we read on...

**v4 Then he sent another servant to them;**

God sends another prophet.

**v4 they struck this man on the head and treated him shamefully.**

You see how this is going...



**v5 He sent still another, and that one they killed. He sent many others; some of them they beat, others they killed.**

He sent one, He sent another, He sent a third. Then He sent MANY OTHERS. And they continually rejected the responsibility that accompanies privileges; the consistently rejected accountability to any authority.

**v6 ‘He had one left to send, a son, whom he loved. He sent him last of all, saying, “They will respect my son.”**

Jesus clearly places Himself as the Son of the Father. Astounding!

1788. entrepó : to turn about, to reverence, to put to shame, Original Word: ἐντρέπω

Definition: to turn about, to reverence, to put to shame

Usage: (a) I turn to confusion, put to shame, (b) mid: I reverence, regard. HELPS Word-studies 1788 entrépō (from 1722 /en, "in" and trépō, "to turn") – properly in (a state of) turning, i.e. to turn one's attention to in a riveted ("locked-in") way. This term is also used of recoiling (turning away) in shame, at times of a "wholesome shame which leads a man to consideration of his condition" (Berry).

**v7 ‘But the tenants said to one another, “This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.” 8 So they took him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard.**

God sent His Son. And the farmers killed Him. And if we step back a few yards, we can see that we’d have acted similarly.

Two takes on this strategy:

One – apparently the rules back then indicated that a few years of ‘quiet’ evidenced abdication of property rights. We’re guessing the parable covered several years of time (MANY OTHER servants sent!). That the Son showed up suggested that the owner was dead and you can see the outline of their evil logic – kill the Son, and the property becomes theirs!

So, from this perspective, it made sense as a ruthless, cynical strategy to overthrow the proper government – the revolt against God.

Two – from our perspective today, it makes no sense at all. It’s irrational. How does killing all these people end up with the farmers getting the property? Alright – hold those thoughts.

**v9 ‘What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others.**

Remember that this is a parable and we're not trying to line-attach every action in the parable to future prophetic action. Most of the parable is historic. But it is notable that the farmers don't end up 'winning' this war that they started.

**v10 Haven't you read this passage of Scripture:**

***"The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;***

**v11 *the Lord has done this,  
and it is marvellous in our eyes"?***

They rejected him (ἀπεδοκίμασαν). The verb in the Greek implies that the stone was first examined and then deliberately refused. *apodokimázō* (from 575 /*apó*, "away from" and 1381 /*dokimázō*, "to prove, test") – properly, to cast away after thorough investigation (testing); to reject after determining something is useless (unworthy).

***12 Then the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders looked for a way to arrest him because they knew he had spoken the parable against them. But they were afraid of the crowd; so they left him and went away.***

Here's the thing. Over centuries, God has been doing whatever is necessary to draw His creation – us, back to Him. 2 Samuel 14:14 says, *"Like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be recovered, so we must die. But that is not what God desires; rather, He devises ways so that a banished person does not remain banished from Him."* And the farmers – the Jewish leaders of the past – refused to accept the ways of reconciliation that God devised.

He devises ways – one prophet, another, a third, MANY OTHERS, and ultimately HIS SON the Lord Jesus Christ! He keeps coming.

And the world keeps rejecting Him today. Maybe you're one of them. We've all been the farmer in the parable at some point in our lives. If you still are, you should be reconciled with Jesus today.

The rest of, I expect, are like the servants in the parable, sent by God to reconcile people with Him. And the rejection of the owner of the vineyard? We see it today when we're evangelizing, just like in the parable:

- some people refuse the responsibility that goes with the privileges;
- some people refuse the accountability to a higher authority than themselves;
- some people reject the truth violently;
- some people actively revolt against God;
- some people are ruthlessly cynical in their approach to Jesus;
- some people are irrational in their disobedience.

Look, if you find yourself described in any of the actions of the farmers in the parable, know that it doesn't need to end the same way for you. God has devised a way so that

you don't HAVE TO remain banished from Him. Jesus says back at the beginning of this book (Mark 1:15), "*Repent and believe.*" Repent means to confess your sins, to renounce them, sure. But it also means to change the way you think. So you change the way you think,

about yourself: on one end of the spectrum, you aren't the centre of the universe; on the other, you are not a pile of garbage. God has created you – a masterpiece – with great dreams and plans for you;

About your sins: they aren't merely selfish habits; they are offences to God; they are refusal of your accountability to a higher authority; they are a refusal of your responsibilities that accompany your privileges;

And about God: God is not some mean-spirited entity. He lavishly provided the vineyard, outfitted it, created everything necessary for its prosperity. And He went into partnership with the farmers. And He exercised ridiculous patience AND persistence in devising means so that we needn't remain banished from Him.

And 'believe'. That's a strong word – like to rely, to depend, to trust.

Two verses later – Mark 1:17 - Jesus says, "*Come, follow Me.*" That's the invitation for you, today. And for those of us who are Salvationists, that is the invitation we can offer to those we evangelise – follow Jesus!

## One Another - In The Spirit

By Major Stephen Court

Here's the text in THE VOICE: Philippians 2:1-11

*1 If you find any comfort from being in the Anointed, if His love brings you some encouragement, if you experience true companionship with the Spirit, if His tenderness and mercy fill your heart; then, brothers and sisters,*

*2 here is one thing that would complete my joy—come together as one in mind and spirit and purpose, sharing in the same love.*

*3 Don't let selfishness and prideful agendas take over. Embrace true humility, and lift your heads to extend love to others.*

*4 Get beyond yourselves and protecting your own interests; be sincere, and secure your neighbors' interests first.*

*5 In other words, adopt the mind-set of Jesus the Anointed. Live with His attitude in your hearts. Remember:*

*6 Though He was in the form of God,  
He chose not to cling to equality with God;*

*7 But He poured Himself out to fill a vessel brand new;  
a servant in form  
and a man indeed.*

*The very likeness of humanity,*

*8 He humbled Himself,  
obedient to death—  
a merciless death on the cross!*

*9 So God raised Him up to the highest place  
and gave Him the name above all.*

*10 So when His name is called,  
every knee will bow,  
in heaven, on earth, and below.*

*11 And every tongue will confess  
"Jesus, the Anointed One, is Lord,"  
to the glory of God our Father!*

THE VOICE

This section of Scripture seems formed based on the conditional – if VERSE 1

Then... come together

So, let's take a big picture look at this. Paul's 'if' conditional might be punctuated by His use of the phrase 'in the Spirit'. Now, that phrase shows up nine times in the New Testament (at least in the New International Version). John uses it four times, in the Book of Revelation:

*"On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit" (Revelation 1:10);*

*"At once I was in the Spirit" (Revelation 4:2);*

*“The angel carried me away in the Spirit (Revelation 17:3);*

*“He carried me away in the Spirit” (Revelation 21:10)...*

The Revelation instances are informative as to what happens when John is in the Spirit:

Rev 1:10 - *“I was in the spirit on the Lord’s day, **and I heard behind me a loud voice**”*

4:2 - *“At once I was in the spirit, **and there in heaven stood a throne**”*

17:3 - *“So he carried me away in the spirit **into a wilderness, and I saw a woman**”*

21:10 - *“And in the spirit he **carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me**”*

And Paul uses them the other five times:

*“When you are **praising God in the Spirit**” (1 Corinthians 14:16);*

*“And **pray in the Spirit on all occasions**” (Ephesians 6:18);*

*“Any **common sharing in the Spirit**” (Philippians 2:1);*

*“Who also told us of your **love in the Spirit**” (Colossians 1:8);*

*“**Made alive in the Spirit**” (1 Peter 3:18);*

Let’s see the condition in Philippians 2 as ‘if’ or ‘since’ or ‘suppose’ we are IN THE SPIRIT. So, are we ‘in the Spirit’? In a May 2, 1908 letter Samuel Logan Brengle wrote to his wife in response to a letter he received from a famous salvo leader... “He agrees with me in my doctrine of the Holy Spirit, but thinks we should not mention the Holy Ghost to simple folk. He does not and then he wonders why God does not give him results such as Finney saw. He emasculates the gospel and then wonders why it is barren.” – “Dearest Lily” p59.

We’re talking about holiness. Holy Spirit cleansing and filling us. To be emptied of our natural inclination to act selfishly, then purified and saturated with Holy Spirit, allows us to live and walk and act and fight IN THE SPIRIT.

Individually, that’s crucial.

Corporately, it is curious. Is what Brengle said of that famous leader true of us: “We emasculate the gospel and then wonder why it is barren”?

What in your life is still to be repented of, is still to be consecrated, that keeps you from including yourself in Paul’s ‘conditional’ start to this address? Press ‘pause’ and deal with it now.

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That's our 'if'...

The 'then' becomes... we will come together. Now, the 'one another' phrase, occurring in some versions of verse 4, is even more popular than 'in the Spirit' in the New Testament. Winfield Bevins listed 38 'one anothers' – even more than 38 verses containing them!

- Strengthen one another: Romans 14:19
- Help one another: Hebrews 3:13; 10:24
- Encourage one another: Romans 14:19; 15:14; Colossians 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:11;  
Hebrews 3:13; 10:24-25
- Care for one another: Galatians 6:2
- Forgive one another: Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13
- Submit to one another: Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5
- Commit to one another: 1 John 3:16
- Build trust with one another: 1 John 1:7
- Be devoted to one another: Romans 12:10
- Be patient with one another: Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13
- Be interested in one another: Philippians 2:4
- Be accountable to one another: Ephesians 5:21
- Confess to one another: James 5:16
- Live in harmony with one another: Romans 12:16
- Do not be conceited toward one another: Romans 13:8
- Do not pass judgment on one another: Romans 14:13; 15:7
- Do not slander one another: James 4:11
- Instruct one another: Romans 16:16
- Greet one another: Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 13:12
- Admonish one another: Romans 5:14; Colossians 3:16
- Spur one another on toward love and good deeds: Hebrews 10:24
- Meet with one another: Hebrews 10:25
- Agree with one another: 1 Corinthians 16:20
- Be concerned for one another: Hebrews 10:24
- Be humble toward one another in love: Ephesians 4:2
- Be compassionate toward one another: Ephesians 4:32
- Do not be consumed by one another: Galatians 5:14-15
- Do not anger one another: Galatians 5:26
- Do not lie to one another: Colossians 3:9
- Do not grumble toward one another: James 5:9
- Give preference to one another: Romans 12:10
- Be at peace with one another: Romans 12:18
- Sing to one another: Ephesians 5:19
- Be of the same mind to one another: Romans 12:16; 15:5
- Comfort one another: 1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11
- Be kind to one another: Ephesians 4:32

- Live in peace with one another: 1 Thessalonians 5:13
  - Carry one another's burdens: Galatians 6:2
- Winfield Bevins MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES book

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And there is this underlying context of 'one another'. Unity is important regardless of your end. On August 21, 1882, General William Booth, wrote, in "Union": "Unity is strength for good or for evil either in the armies of Heaven or the armies of Hell. Bound together of one heart and of one soul, we are invincible."

As we each and all fulfill the conditional – IN THE SPIRIT – we can fulfill the outcome portion of the equation – the 'then'. Our UNITY, based IN THE SPIRIT, can follow the example of Jesus and expect and even help prompt His end.

Remember His example? Seven stages of descent in verses 7 and 8 followed by seven stages of ascent in verses 9-11 culminating in "every tongue" confessing, "Jesus, the Anointed One, is Lord," to the glory of God our Father!

It's not just in Philippians. It's also in Romans 14:11: "As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God."

And Revelation 7:9: "there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb."

That's the point of the whole thing! That's the purpose of our lives! That's the DNA of our movement – to expedite 7.9 billion people choosing to bend their knees in submission to the Lord Jesus Christ, 7.9 billion people speaking 7,099 languages all declaring that Jesus Christ is Lord! It's the evangelistic mandate. And it is optimized as we live and fight IN THE SPIRIT, loving and caring and devoting ourselves TO ONE ANOTHER!

So, who's in?

Philippians 2 – The Passion Translation (TPT)

*1 Look at how much encouragement you've found in your relationship with the Anointed One! You are filled to overflowing with his comforting love. You have experienced a deepening friendship with the Holy Spirit and have felt his tender affection and mercy.*

*2 So I'm asking you, my friends, that you be joined together in perfect unity—with one heart, one passion, and united in one love. Walk together with one harmonious purpose and you will fill my heart with unbounded joy.*

*3 Be free from pride-filled opinions, for they will only harm your cherished unity. Don't allow self-promotion to hide in your hearts, but in authentic humility put others first and view others as more important than yourselves.*

*4 Abandon every display of selfishness. Possess a greater concern for what matters to others instead of your own interests.*

*5 And consider the example that Jesus, the Anointed One, has set before us. Let his mindset become your motivation.*

#### *The Example of Jesus Christ*

*6 He existed in the form of God, yet he gave no thought to seizing equality with God as his supreme prize. 7 Instead he emptied himself of his outward glory by reducing himself to the form of a lowly servant. He became human! 8 He humbled himself and became vulnerable, choosing to be revealed as a man and was obedient. He was a perfect example, even in his death—a criminal’s death by crucifixion!*

*9 Because of that obedience, God exalted him and multiplied his greatness! He has now been given the greatest of all names!*

*10 The authority of the name of Jesus causes every knee to bow in reverence! Everything and everyone will one day submit to this name—in the heavenly realm, in the earthly realm, and in the demonic realm.*

*11 And every tongue will proclaim in every language: “Jesus Christ is Lord Yahweh,” bringing glory and honor to God, his Father!*



## Jesus Has Business With It

By Major Stephen Court

### Palm Sunday Rush

what happens...

- clears temple
- teaching in the olive orchard
- last supper
- trial / crucifixion
- (resurrection)

*And He personally bore our sins in His own body on the cross, so that we might be dead to sin and be alive to all that is good. It was the suffering that He bore which has healed you. (1 Peter 2:24 JBP);*

*Remember that Christ the just suffered for us the unjust, to bring us to God. That meant the death of His body, but He came to life again in the spirit. (1 Peter 3:18 JBP);*

*Yet the proof of God's amazing love is this: that it was while we were sinners that Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8 JBP).*

viewpoints:

Jesus - weeps

LUKE 19: 41 "As He approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He **wept** over it 42 and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace-but now it is hidden from your eyes."

Apprentices - obey

Owners - what?

Foal

With You

Feeling a little foalish?

Unable?

Overlooked?

Unimportant?

Jesus has business with you.

It's a foal! Not a steed!

It's not what the world expected of Messiah. Jews expected Messiah to overthrow the Roman oppressors. Such a conquering general would ride in on a stallion. But Jesus?

on a wobbly legged foal (Zechariah 9:9 prophesied the coming of a king *“righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”*).

Sidebar: donkeys are infamous for being stubborn, in not going where you want them to go when you want them to go there - NOT the kind of animal you prefer in combat!

Were you expecting a steed? A stallion? Do you think maybe, after all of these years, your dreams didn't quite turn out like you'd imagined? Jesus is looking to fulfill other dreams. He sees better ends.

Jesus has business with you.

Jesus has business with you...

With Yours

Something you hold dear?

Something vulnerable and fragile of yours?

Something you treasure?

Your skills / abilities / resources?

Jesus has business with it.

*“Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.”* Colossians 1:21

Get holy

- consecrate

- repent (thinking differently about yourself / your sin / your God)

## Holy Resurrection Day

By Major Stephen Court

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

*3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.*

FOUR-FOLD? - spinning off Ephesians 4:9-11

Apostle - Mary - sent one - apostle to the apostles

Prophet - Jesus fulfilled 300+ TWO IN CENTILLION

Evangelist - Luke 24:46-47, AND Mary

Discipler - Matthew 28:18-20

#Everybody should follow Jesus.

Muslims should celebrate Resurrection Day. In the Quran, in the Sura of Maryam, #33, it says this: "And Salam (peace) be upon me the day I was born, and the day I (Jesus) die, and the day I shall be raised alive!"

Jesus is celebrating - IN THE QURAN - the day He died AND the day He is raised back to life! The Quran is unintentionally celebrating Resurrection Day. And so we invite you, if you grew up Muslim, to celebrate Jesus' resurrection with us and respond appropriately, by submitting to Jesus.

Jews should celebrate Resurrection Day. In the Hebrew Scriptures there are hundreds of prophecies about Jesus - and He fulfills them all. What are the chances that Jesus just coincidentally fulfilled only EIGHT of them? (AS BELOW)

Centillion has 303 0s. So it is 'two in centillion' chance in that it is 1 in 10\_to\_the\_power\_of\_157, roughly half - and that's just to fulfill 48 prophecies. But there are a few hundred! But even fulfilling just EIGHT of the prophecies is 1 in 10\_to\_the\_power\_of\_17 goes like this: Scientist and mathematician Peter Stoner claimed that this number of silver dollars would be enough to cover the face of the entire state of Texas two feet deep... Who in his right mind would suppose that a blindfolded man, heading out of Dallas by foot in any direction, would be able, on his very first attempt, to pick up one specifically marked silver dollar out of 100,000,000,000,000,000? Let's look at some interesting 'odds': Being struck by lightning in a year = 1 in 700,000 Being killed by lightning in a year = 1 in 2,000,000 Becoming president = or 1 in 10,000,000 A meteorite landing on your house = 1 in 180,000,000,000,000"

Hindus should celebrate Resurrection Day. This is the emphatic exclamation mark on Jesus' claims to be the one God, and Hindus have accepted that the one god is impersonal and unknowable. All Hindus are welcome to come to know Jesus personally.

Atheists should celebrate Resurrection Day. Your intellectual horizon is only 80 or 90 years away, and yet *"God has put eternity in our hearts"* (Ecclesiastes 3:11). All atheists are invited to consider the life, love, and teaching of Jesus, along with His fulfillment of prophecies, and start a relationship with Him that lasts forever.

Ephesians 4:11 *"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers."*

Readings: Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20;

v1 - two Marys

v2 - earthquake as angel opens the tomb and moves the boulder

v5 - don't be afraid

v7 - the two Marys are apostles to the apostles - (by some measures the) first(?) evangelists: *"Then go quickly and tell His disciples: "He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. "*

v9 - they worshipped Jesus (then in 10 He sends them!)

v10-16 - bribing the guards to cover up the miracle

v17 - they worshipped Jesus (Jesus accepted their worship)

v18-20 - Go and make disciples of all nations

Luke 24: 36-49.

v36 - Peace be with you

v44 - fulfilling prophecies

v46-47 *"This is what is written: the Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,"*

v47 *"and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."*

v49 *"stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."*

Message

1 Peter 1:3-9

3 *"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, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 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. 6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory*

*and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”*

1 Peter 3:18 *“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.”*

1 Peter 2:24 *“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.””*

1 Peter 1:3-9 BNT

Celebrating In Ecstasy

3 *Let’s celebrate our God, praising, namely, Father and Sovereign Jesus Christ, who, daily in profuse covenant-loyalty, regenerated us to confidently, dependently live, saturated in Jesus Christ’s revivification from corpse.<sup>[1]</sup>*

4 *God assigns a portion that can’t corrode, doesn’t degrade, won’t wilt, preserved for us in heaven.<sup>[2]</sup>*

5 *God efficaciously keeps watch like a military sentinel, energy saturating those who act on their convictions in God’s rescue that delivers ‘the reliant’ out of destruction and into His safety, standing by to be manifest, finally, when everything comes to a head, at the suitable moment.<sup>[3]</sup>*

6 *You are leaping and jumping and celebrating in ecstasy even though, in the moment, a slight season, as inexorable, you writhe in profound, vexing, emotional agony through assorted calamities<sup>[4]</sup>*

7 *for this expressed purpose: this testing you are enduring will find your actions on convictions genuine – of greater value than a golden ornament, which can be destroyed even having been examined in the flames – and you’ll find that people commend those worthy actions on convictions that evoke such good opinion whenever Jesus Christ is manifested.<sup>[5]</sup>*

8 *You haven’t seen Him but you esteem Him; you can’t see Him right now but you are persuaded by Him, so glad you are leaping and jumping and celebrating in an awareness of God’s favour – the inexpressible, the substantial weight of it all.<sup>[6]</sup>*

9 *This provides the principal aim of your actions on convictions- God rescuing you from destruction into His safety, preserving your distinct identity, your very lives.<sup>[7]</sup>*

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[1] eulogetos = well spoken of; Strong’s – worthy of praise; HELPS – speak well of, celebrate by praising (celebrate... praising); kai = and, even, also; Strong’s – namely; HELPS – indeed (namely); kuriou = lord, master (Sovereign); kata = down, against, according to; Strong’s – throughout, during among, daily, day-by-day, by way of; HELPS - down from (daily); polu = much, many; Strong’s – often; HELPS – multitudinous, plenteous (profuse); eleos = mercy, pity, compassion; HELPS – loyalty to God’s covenant (covenant-loyalty); anagenneas = to beget again; HELPS – born again, born

from on high (regenerated); zosan = to live (live); elpida = expectation, hope; Strong's – trust, confidence (confidently, dependently); di = though, on account of, because of; Strong's – throughout, for the sake of; HELPS – across, back and forth to go all the way through, successfully across, thoroughly (saturated); anastaseos = a standing up; Strong's – a raising up, resurrection (revivification); nekron = dead; Strong's – lifeless, corpse, mortal; HELPS – what lacks life (corpse)

[2] kleronomian = an inheritance; Strong's – heritage; HELPS – portion God assigns (God assigns a portion); aptharton = undecaying (can't corrode); amianton = undefiled; Strong's – untainted, free from contamination; HELPS – untinted, unstained, undefiled because unstained (degrade); amaranton = unfading; Strong's – enduring; HELPS – what will not fade, imperishable (won't wilt); teteremenen = to watch over, to guard; Strong's – keep, observe; HELPS – maintain, preserve, spiritually guard, keep intact (preserved); ouranois = heaven; Strong's – the atmosphere, the sky (heaven)

[3] phrouroumenous = to guard; Strong's – keep as by a military guard; HELPS – guard / keep watch like a military sentinel (keeps watch like a military sentinel); dunamei = power, strength, might; Strong's – marvelous works, force, ability, efficacy, energy; HELPS – ability to perform (efficiently... energy); dia = through, on account of, because of; Strong's – throughout; HELPS – across, back and forth to go all the way through, successfully across; thoroughly (saturating); pisteos = faith, faithfulness; persuasion, credence, moral conviction (act on their convictions); soterian = deliverance, salvation; Strong's – welfare, prosperity, preservation, safety; HELPS – God's rescue which delivers believers out of destruction and into His safety (God's rescue of 'the reliant' out of destruction and into His safety); etoimen = prepared; Strong's – ready; HELPS – standing by (standing by); apokaluphthenai = to uncover, reveal; Strong's – bring to light; HELPS – revealing what is hidden, make plain, manifest (manifest); eschaton = last, extreme; Strong's – finally, till the end (finally); kairo = time, season; Strong's – fitting season, opportunity, occasion; HELPS – referring to things coming to a head to take full-advantage of; the suitable time, the right moment, favourable moment (when everything comes to a head, at the suitable moment)

[4] agalliasithe = to exult, rejoice greatly; Strong's – full of joy; HELPS – properly, getting so glad one jumps [leaps, from definition] in celebration, to boast because so experientially joyful (leaping and jumping and celebrating in ecstasy); arti = just now; Strong's – at this moment, now; HELPS – here-and-now, exactly now, in the immediate moment (in the moment); oligon = few, small, little; Strong's – light, slight (slight season); ei = if, whether, that, forasmuch, as (as); deon = that which is needful; Strong's – necessary (inexorable- impossible to stop or prevent); lupethentes = to distress, to grieve; Strong's – vex; HELPS – severe sorrow, experience deep, emotional pain, is used of the pain of childbirth (writhe in profound, emotional, vexing agony); poikilois = many coloured; Strong's – diverse, various; HELPS – manifold, diversified (assorted); peirasmois = an experiment, trial, temptation; Strong's – probation, calamity, affliction (calamities)

[5] ina = so that, in order that; HELPS – the semantically marked way of expressing purpose in Greek (for this expressed purpose); dokimion = a testing; Strong's – trial, what is genuine; HELPS – what is found approved / genuine after testing (testing... find... genuine); pisteos = faith, faithfulness; credence, persuasion, moral conviction (acting on convictions); polutimoton = very precious; Strong's – of great value, very costly (); chrusiou = very precious; Strong's – piece of gold, golden ornament (golden ornament); apollumenou = to destroy, destroy utterly; Strong's – kill, destroy; HELPS – cutting off entirely (destroyed); de = but, and, now; HELPS – moreover, indeed now, on top of this, next (even); dokimazomenou = to test; Strong's - examine (examined); puros = fire; Strong's – trials, lightning (flames); eurethe = to find; Strong's – learn, discover, especially after searching (find); epainon = praise; Strong's – commendation, approval; HELPS – accurate acknowledgement (commend); doxan = opinion; Strong's – glory, renown, honour, splendor; HELPS – conveys God's infinite, intrinsic worth / substance / essence; what evokes good opinion (evoke such good opinion); timen = a valuing, a price; Strong's – honour; HELPS – perceived honour, worth, what has value in the eyes of the beholder (worthy); apokalupsei = an uncovering; Strong's – unveiling, revealing, revelation; HELPS – particular manifestation (manifested)

[6] idontes = to see, perceive, attend to; Strong's – look upon, experience, discern, beware (seen, see); agapate = to love; Strong's – take pleasure in, long for, esteem; HELPS - prefer (esteem); arti = just now; Strong's – now, at this moment; HELPS – here and now, exactly now, in the immediate present (right now); pisteuontes = to believe, entrust; Strong's – have faith in, am entrusted with; HELPS - persuading oneself (persuaded by); agalliate = to exult, rejoice, greatly; Strong's – full of joy; HELPS – getting so glad one jumps in celebration, boast because so experientially joyful (so glad you are leaping and jumping and celebrating); chara = joy, delight; Strong's – gladness; HELPS - awareness of God's grace / favour / joy (an awareness of God's favour); aneklaeto = unspeakable; HELPS – unable to fully describe or report, unutterable, inexpressible (inexpressible); dedoxasmene = to render or esteem glorious; Strong's – honour, bestow glory on; HELPS – to ascribe weight by recognizing real substance / value (substantial weight of it all)

[7] komizomenoi = to bear, carry; provide for; Strong's – receive, recover, convey (providing); telos = an end, a toll; Strong's – principal end, aim, purpose, tax, event, issue; HELPS – consummation, end-goal, closure with all its results (principal aim); pisteos = faith, faithfulness; persuasion, credence, moral conviction (actions on convictions); soterian = deliverance, salvation; Strong's – welfare, prosperity, preservation, safety; HELPS – God's rescue which delivers believers out of destruction and into His safety (God rescuing you from destruction and into His safety); psuchon = breath, soul; Strong's – life, self; HELPS – distinct identity, unique personhood, individual personality (distinct identity, your very lives)

## On The Witness Stand

By Major Stephen Court

Acts 26:9-29

13 *“About noon, King Agrippa, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions.*

14 *We all fell to the ground...”*

This is so big a story that Paul doesn't even mention that he was also blinded by that blazing bright light! Paul being blinded was not important enough to include.

Now, last week we celebrated Epiphany, right following Orthodox Christmas. And those shepherds experienced something only Paul and his companions also experienced.

“the glory of the Lord shone around them.”

‘glory’? Greek - *‘doxa’*: “opinion; – honor, renown, unspoken manifestation of God, splendor; – corresponds to the OT word *kabo* – to be heavy; conveys God's infinite, intrinsic worth / substance / essence.”

And ‘shone around’? That word *‘perilampó’* appears twice in NT – Luke 2:17 and HERE, Acts 26:13. In Paul's telling, *“a light from heaven brighter than the sun shone down on me and my companions.”*

So, we're talking variously of God's splendor from heaven, God's intrinsic essence drenching them in blinding light, or the unspoken manifestation of God brighter than the sun, shining around them.

No wonder they fell to the ground!

Hold That Thought      Now, let's follow Paul through his testimony...

15 *“Then I asked, “Who are you, Lord?”*

He inquires – are we curious about God? Are we intrigued by His ways? Do we want to know the Lord?

And are we ready for Jesus' answer? Or are we comfortable with status quo?

**I AM**

Sidebar: **I AM**, context is key.

**I AM** is English for Yahweh (or Jehovah), which shows up in Genesis 2:4 for the first of several thousand occurrences. This is the account of when the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.



It is the way God identified himself in his conversation with Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3:14): *“God said to Moses, ‘I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”*

God is the self-existent one. That is, he wasn't born, he didn't depend on someone or anything to create or bear him. He doesn't, in the present, either. He is the eternal 'now'. Yahweh is an extremely holy name for devout Jews. They won't speak the name aloud. They won't write it out completely. They typically replace it with an alternative name for God.

This reverence for this name of God carried itself into the Christian translation of the Hebrew Scriptures in which some versions substitute for Yahweh with the word 'LORD' in capital letters. (YHWH cap/ NYC airport)

What's the relationship Jesus had with **I AM**. Knowing that this was a loaded term, and sometimes used as a common pronoun, Jesus applied it to himself frequently. It was a dog whistle that he knew all observant Jews would immediately associate with the most high God.

Can you give me an example of Jesus blowing this dog whistle?

\* **I AM** the bread of life (John 6:35). *“Then Jesus declared, ‘I AM the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry.’”*

How did people respond? John 6:41: *“At this the Jews there began to grumble about him.”*

\* **I AM** the light of the world (John 8:12). Here, Jesus identifies himself as Yahweh, who will illuminate every step of our lives (*“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, ‘I AM the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’”*)

The Pharisees challenged him, John 8:13: *“Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid.”*

\* **I AM** the gate (John 10:9). Here, Jesus identifies as Yahweh, the way to rescue from every threat and harm (*“I AM the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.”*)

\* **I AM** the good shepherd (John 10:11). Here, Jesus identifies as Yahweh, the good shepherd who will die for his flock (*“I AM the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”*)

How did the crowds hear these fantastic assertions? John 10:19-21: *“The Jews who heard these words were again divided. Many of them said, ‘He is demon-possessed*

*and raving mad. Why listen to him?” But others said, “These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”*

\* **I AM** the resurrection and the life (John 11:25). Here, Jesus identifies as Yahweh, who gives eternal life (**I AM** the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die...)

Chat with Martha at her brother’s funeral. She responds faithfully to this new orthodoxy, but her sister Mary basically blames Jesus for their brother’s death: *“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died”* (John 11:32b).

\* **I AM** the way, and the truth, and the life (John 14:6). Here, Jesus identifies as Yahweh, means of understanding and experiencing God (*“Jesus answered, ‘**I AM** the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.’”*)

Now, some critics get tripped up here, noting that Jesus seems to distinguish between himself and God the Father. They aren’t the first to notice this. On the spot, his disciple Philip chimed in, *“Lord, show us the Father...”* (v. 8). But watch this... Jesus replied, *“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father”* (v. 9).

\* **I AM** the true vine (John 15:1). (*“**I AM** the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.”*) Now, remember, anyone who has seen Jesus has seen the Father (John 14:9).

And Jesus anticipates that the world will hate him and his disciples, to whom he is speaking (vv. 18–23).

All of these are dog whistles by which Jesus is making claims to be Yahweh, but in such a way that it might not be politically expedient for those most offended by them to act rashly. But the other famous **I AM** from Jesus goes over the top, crossing that line.

Later in John 8, The crowd infers from Jesus’ promise that he can set them free (v. 32), that he is calling them slaves (they were at best a vassal state of Rome [Israel was formally oppressed in the empire], and historically [Egypt, Babylon]). And they deny it! (v. 33).

But Jesus spiritualises their denial, and accuses them of being slaves to sin (v. 34). Then the crowd infers that Jesus is calling them illegitimate children (v. 41). Jesus ratchets things up with this: *“You belong to your father, the devil”* (v. 44). The crowd’s rebuttal? *“You are a Samaritan and demon-possessed”* (v. 48).

Finally, this: *‘Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad’* (v. 56). *“You are not yet fifty years old,” they said to him, ‘and you have seen Abraham!’* (v. 57). *“Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, ‘before Abraham was born, **I AM!**’* (v. 58).

Jesus puts away the dog whistle! He blatantly makes the claim, in the context of eternal existence and superiority over the father of their religion, to be Yahweh. Even if this is not enough to convince you, the reaction of the religious crowd should do the trick: “*At this, they picked up stones to stone him*” (v. 59).

16 “*Now get up and stand on your feet.*”

Up and ready to go; not slacking on the couch; not holding theological positions but holding battle positions. Orthodoxy without Orthopraxy makes us theological couch potatoes.

16 ... “*I have appeared to you*”

Jesus’ revelation. Friends of mine taught me back in the day that nothing spiritual is learned except by revelation. LORD, REVEAL YOURSELF TO US!

16 .... “*I ... appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me.*”

God has appointed each of us in specific places and roles and though it might be over-generalizing, it might be helpful to see whatever He has appointed us to INCLUDES us being His servant and witness.

Sending you to them

A sent one is an apostle. We are apostolic as we obey Jesus’ sending.

18 “*to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God,*”

Powerful / transformative vocation for each of us. We are partnering with Jesus to see people lives regenerated!

WHY? so that they may receive forgiveness of sins

Evangelism toward salvation – we are not just about a witness or evangelizing, but, especially as Salvationists, we are about successful evangelism, seeing people RECEIVE FORGIVENESS OF SINS!

and

“*A place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.*”

Exhortation toward holiness – and, again, we Salvationists KNOW that you can’t keep it up all in your own power. We each need to know Holy Spirit filling. And we aim at seeing all of these people also experience holiness in their lives.

19 *“So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven.”*

What a great report to give our KING at judgement day– obedient to Jesus.

20 *“First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.”*

This is fulfillment of Acts 1:8 (*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”*)

AND AN EXAMPLE that deeds are to match repentance. This is the walk matching the talk. This is integrity. This is righteousness.

21 *“That is why some Jews seized me in the temple courts and tried to kill me.”*

Not too many in the room can relate to this; maybe there are more who are listening in from their screen.

22 *“But God has helped me to this very day; so I stand here and testify to small and great alike.”*

More amazing testimony... and

Small and great! (William ‘small’, Catherine ‘great’)

Salvationists have a couple of presumptions:

- everyone we meet needs to get saved;
- every social interaction is a divine appointment.

24 *“At this point Festus interrupted Paul’s defence. ‘You are out of your mind, Paul!’ he shouted. ‘Your great learning is driving you insane.’”*

So, few of us in the room can relate to Paul’s experience in verse 21 – being seized and life threatened. But probably more of us can ‘amen’ the cursing and shouting and insults in verse 24 here.

27 *“King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do.”*

Tactical example – Paul has been speaking to Festus. Festus thinks he’s nuts. So he turns it to Agrippa. Let’s keep our spiritual eyes/ears open as we’re evangelizing and focus on those who Holy Spirit is convicting.

28 *“Then Agrippa said to Paul, ‘Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?’”*

29 *Paul replied, ‘Short time or long – I pray to God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains.’”*

A few observations:

-Agrippa knew what Paul was doing. If the folk you are chatting with don't know that you are persuading them to follow Jesus, then maybe that speaks to the quality of your persuasion;

-Paul was going for it on the spot. Maybe Paul recognized that to God a thousand years could be like a day;

or maybe that this was Paul's only shot at Agrippa;  
or that Holy Spirit had already been working on Agrippa.  
Regardless, Paul went for it – he was a good salvationist;

-Paul was also prepared for long-play evangelism. For us, that can include building friendships after we have evangelized; in other situations, it may require from us faithful intercession;

-Paul expands the pitch to everyone listening. He'd be focused in on Agrippa, recognizing that others were 'over-hearing' the conversation. We're familiar with that approach. We've sometimes had a children's story or focus teaching the kids a lesson AND recognizing all the while that the adults are OVER-HEARING the message.

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Now, going back to where we started, verses 13,14... the shepherds encountered Jesus and experienced the glory of the Lord, there was, in Luke 2:17, one of the most under-rated Christmas miracles as the shepherds, immediately transmogrify into evangelists!

Do you get it? Shepherds encounter Jesus, experience God's glory, and BOOM! They are evangelists.  
We have a lot of shepherds in this tribe; not so many evangelists (yet).

A lot of us have encountered Jesus, and, maybe, an encounter with the glory of the Lord results in a re-enactment of that Christmas miracle, an immediate transformation – BOOM! - into evangelists.

It happened at Christmas with the shepherds.

It happened with Paul on the road to Damascus.

It can happen with each of us today.

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“Kindling, Flaming, Glowing”  
Now I feel the sacred fire,  
Kindling, flaming, glowing,  
Higher still, and rising higher,  
All my soul o’erflowing.  
Life immortal I receive,  
O the wondrous story!  
I was dead, but now I live,  
Glory, glory, glory!

Now I am from bondage freed,  
Every bond is riven,  
Jesus makes me free indeed,  
Just as free as Heaven.  
'Tis a glorious liberty,  
O the wondrous story!  
I was bound, but now I'm free,  
Glory, glory, glory!

Let the glorious message roll,  
Roll through every nation,  
Witnessing from soul to soul  
This immense salvation.  
Now I know 'tis full and free,  
O the wondrous story!  
For I feel 'tis saving me,  
Glory, glory, glory!  
*Anonymous*