**The Revolution Series – Week 3**

This term we are doing the Revolution series!

We learnt that Revolution is an overthrow or replacement of an established system, a sudden, radical, or complete change.

Last week our theme was: Amazing Revolutions

This week we are going to look at some Amazing Revolutionaries and see what we can learn from them.

A revolutionary makes things new; makes history; redefines history and brings change.

Pop quiz – Which countries were these revolutionaries from?

**George Washington**: First president of the US (1789). Commander-and-chief of the continental army in the American Revolutionary war. One of the founding fathers of the US.

**Adolf Hitler** – Nazi Germany; World War 2

**Corazon Aquino** – Leader of the peaceful “Peoples Power Revolution” in the Philippines against Ferdinand Marcos.

**Vladimir Lenin** - Communist Revolutionary – Russian Empire replaced by Soviet Union

**Joan of Arc** – French peasant girl. Dreams – visited by saints who urged her to take up the fight against the English. Defeated the English at Orleans in 1429.

**Fidel Castro** – Leading role in the Cuban Revolution. Ousted president Batista in 1959. Remained in power until 2008.

**Mahatma Ghandi** – Led India to independence and inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world.

**Golda Meir** – Raised money in the US for Israel’s independence in 1948 and was the primary negotiator between the Jews and the British. Became Israel’s prime minister during 1973 Yom Kipur War.

**Mandela**

Historic examples of revolutionaries (good and bad): Some were strong, others were weak. Some were good, others were bad. But they all had a revolutionary effect. (Scales)

Mandela

George Washington

Abraham Lincoln

Hitler

Stalin & Lenin

Fidel Castro & Che Guevara

Jesus as revolutionary. People were faced with the same dilemma – Who is this Jesus?

Background: Israel was Ruled by Romans. Long awaited promise of the “Messiah”/Saviour. They are thinking “Political Leader” that will free them from oppressive rule by Romans.

Jesus appears: Miraculously conceived; Born in poverty; Flees from Herod and spends early childhood in Egypt. Grows up in Nazareth. Baptised by John. Starts his ministry by preaching , teaching, healing, raising people from the dead (Mat 4:23–25).

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say the Son of Man is?’ They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ‘But what about you?’ he asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ Jesus replied, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be[c] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’ (Matthew 16:13-19)

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Jesus Said Revolutionary Things

1. About God’s kingdom – Sermon on the mount. (Mat 5). He challenges societal norms about power, sin, revenge.

2. About himself – I am the way the truth and the life.

3. About religion and being religious – Speaks out against hypocritical leaders, chases money collectors out of temple

4. About our relationship to God – He forgives people of their sins and restores a right relationship with God. Luk 7:47-48 (prostitute); Mark 2:5 (paralysed man through roof);

People who chose Jesus’ revolutionary message and the impact on their lives

1. Peter – From a fisherman that were not dependable to the rock on which Jesus built his church. A church that still exists today

2. Paul – On a mission against Christians, meets Jesus on the road to Damascus who sends him on a mission in the exact opposite way and he evangelised most of the known world at the time, plants churches, writes big portion of the New Testament.

3. Woman who suffered from bleeding (Mark 5:25) The world has cast her out, pushed her aside, completely overlooked her, nothing left. Jesus acknowledges her, heals her gives her back dignity and life.

4. Lame man walking – Sins are forgiven; He can walk again. (Mat 9:5/Mark2:5). Jesus removes his shame and puts him in right relationship with God but also heals him physically.

5. Jesus raises a widow’s son (Luke 7:9). Jesus has compassion on the widow and gives her, her son back. Showing that God loves us, that he cares about us, that he wants the best for us.

Testimony: What was the impact on our lives?

Conclusion: “The arrival of Jesus signaled the beginning of a new era. God entered history in a personal way and made it unmistakably clear that he is on our side, doing everything possible to save us.” (Message introduction to New Testament)

Matthew 16:13-19. Personal Challenge - What do you make of Jesus?

Prayer

Next week we are going to look at how we can start preparing for Revolution.