

# Easter: God's Interloper

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The very heart of Easter is about Freedom, Justice and Truth.

There are many lessons we can learn from history regarding Freedom, Justice and Truth. First we can learn how Interlopers are vital to the restoration of Justice and second we can see that long-lasting effective change comes only through peace not violence.

Throughout history whenever there is a group of people who are being suppressed, where Injustice is the daily experience of people or Freedom is merely a word, it takes an Interloper to step up to the plate and draw attention to the Injustice before things start to change.

Rarely can the oppressed rise up or those who are not Free to be able to speak up.

It took the Interloper, Martin Luther King jr., to go to Montgomery, Alabama to protest and speak out against the lack of Freedom that the Blacks were experiencing. It took William Wilberforce, a white man in Britain, to become the Interloper in the affairs of the Sugar Companies, Ship Builders, Cotton Plantations and those profiting from Slavery in America before Slavery was outlawed. It took Hudson Taylor, the Interloper, to campaign against women in China being forced to bind their feet until many became deformed before that custom was changed.

It took thousands of Missionaries world wide, as Interlopers, to build the countless hospitals, schools, wells for clean water and to challenge the Governments to bring about Law & Order and Justice to the people, and thus to bring about the benefit that millions now experience.

And it took the Greatest Interloper ever, Jesus, to bring about true Freedom and Justice to mankind.

All of mankind is a slave to Sin and not one of us is about to crawl up from this slavery to gain Freedom. What then does a Just and Holy God do? If the law states that all sin must be punished then a Just God must punish sin. Whether you are driving 130km or 105km on the 401 you are still speeding and as such are guilty of the offense. As people, who are weak ourselves, we can quickly overlook such things but God... if He is Holy and Just cannot overlook offenses.

Which one of us has NEVER lied, NEVER cheated, NEVER disobeyed their parents etc.?

From God's viewpoint all of us have sinned and failed to deal justly towards one another. Should God call upon one liar to defend another liar or one cheater to defend another one who cheats?

God sent His Son, His Only Son, to become like a man made of flesh and blood so that mankind may have Freedom from Sin. All the anger, hate, racism, bitterness that people experience no longer needs to hold you captive but you can be set free.

Where there was once bitterness there can be forgiveness, hate can be replaced with love, racism with equality and respect, anger will give way to peace and hopelessness & despair overcome by faith.

While we were oppressed by our anger, hate, racism, bitterness, Jesus came to set us Free.

## The Method of Lasting Change:

Throughout human history anger, hate and racism have been powerful forces that have created countless victims of man's inhumanity.

Mankind doesn't find it that hard to beat someone's skull in or burn down something. It appears not to be that hard to get a whole country to turn its back while millions are exterminated in gas chambers. It doesn't take that long to get one group of people to enslave another.

In the time it has taken me to write this editorial just how many killings, rapes, assaults and countless other offenses has mankind done around the world toward his fellow man?

It truly wouldn't be that hard to force the OPP or McGuinty to act if violence became your means to an end. It is done around the world every day and according to the events in Ontario over the past two years such use of violence does pay.

But true lasting change that benefits mankind is not found in violence.

When the Blacks were faced with such Injustices, such violence by the KKK and established Officials and such hopelessness and despair, they had a choice to make. The path of violence advocated by people like Malcolm X or the path of peace advocated by Martin Luther King Jr.

Both men were just in their cause. Both had personally experienced the Injustice, the hate, the racism and the violence against Blacks. Both had grown up through such abuses and each had their own way of addressing the problem.

In the day of Jesus, there were many waiting for the coming King to overthrow the Roman Government and certainly many wanted Jesus to lead that cause. There were Jewish groups who advocated violence while Jesus spoke of 'turning the other cheek'.

It is peace not violence that changes a nation and the world.

The problem is the ways of peace are both hard, and easily targeted. It was quite easy for police to arrest Mr. King Jr. while he Marched peacefully as it was easy for guards to arrest Jesus while he prayed. It is far easier for those in positions of power to target the peaceful people to be the scape goats of their own failures than it is to address the Injustices of the day.

How hard is it for Fantino and McGuinty to round up a few residents and place them in jail with or without a charge than it is for them to deal with the real problem?

It is also extremely hard for any individual to truly walk in peace and to be completely devoted to peace. The words are easy but do you still remain peaceful while someone is beating you up? Do you still believe in peace when hate, anger and racism tempt you?

Jesus, a man without sin and who committed no crime, was beaten and painfully crucified on a cross but stated, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.'

Jesus came to bring Justice and Truth to mankind but that doesn't mean he came with bitterness and anger. He took a stand against Injustice without hating those who committed the Injustice.

After two years of Caledonia people need to ask themselves a few questions?

Will I react in anger and with hate? Will I allow that anger to breed Racism? Am I willing to use violence?

Easter is about God forgiving us... therefore how much more should we forgive others?

Stand for Truth and Justice, but allow God to remove anger and hate from your heart.