

Wednesday's Wisdom

a weekly short note from Mike Minear

How Did Jesus Change The World Without Modern Technology?

Robert Reynolds

While lecturing recently to a disinterested class on the dynamics of Columbus' discovery of the New World, it suddenly occurred to me that, just as modern civilization were greatly indebted to New World discoveries, Jesus had actually lived and survived in an era that was ignorant of the things we refer to as necessities.

I realized that Jesus had never tasted chocolate, corn or tomatoes, He never had a banana split, mango flavoured preserves or papaya juice. He had no experience with rubber, plastics or armadillos. And, as I sat down to think about it, I understood that those things didn't even amount to the tip of the iceberg.

Jesus lived in a time when normal citizens went without our enviable investment opportunities. He lived without the comfort of IRAs, whole life insurance, Keough's or Treasury Bills. It seems sad, but our Saviour never knew AAA rated bonds, high return mutual funds, global equities accounts, real estate development opportunities, or pyramid schemes.

And entertainment. How could Jesus have visualized true joy and peace in such a lackluster environment? How did he expect people to understand true happiness without 3D-Movies, High Definition TV? What did he use for sermon illustrations about conflict without football, basketball or baseball?

I could imagine the Lamb of God humming absently to himself, trying unconsciously to put one of his parables to music. How difficult it must have been to garner inspiration when he had never known Bob Dylan, Jackson Browne or James Taylor. In his lifetime, Jesus never heard Jazz, Blues, Big Band, Alternative or Heavy Metal. He never saw a single music video. One can only assume that his repertoire of musical styles was limited, to say the least.

And I couldn't help but wonder how He ever became the Prince of Peace without the aid of modern technology. How could he have hoped to keep up with everyone without a Face Book Account? What chance did He have to stay on top of the late breaking news without 24/7 cable news, tweeting on twitter? How did He ever expect to manage it all when He had no secretary, support staff or spin doctors?

Is it any wonder the man got crucified for libel, trying to run an

international campaign without an adequate legal staff? As I sat there, I was overwhelmed by the thought of the intense pressure under which Jesus must have lived. How could He have expected to survive without a decent therapist or the aid of Prozac? How did He cope with the depression of loneliness when he had no access to the latest self-actualization and self-esteem techniques?

I mean, just who did Jesus think He was? And what could He really have to offer us today? In this age of comfort and control, Jesus' message of stark reality seems a bit outdated. It was preached in a time before we discovered the 'good things' in life.

It is true. Jesus never experienced many things of our modern world during His stay on earth. But, perhaps, that is why His answers were so appropriate then, and seemingly more so today. His timeless Truth cuts through all illusions of comfort.

His view of life was and is unadulterated by intellectual buffoonery.

He managed to live untouched by the human conceit that bends light toward darkness.

And, in the end, Jesus did what none of us, in spite of our modernity, has been or ever will be able to do.

He really changed the world.