



Inside This Issue:

Page 2

Thank You

RHM's Free Resources

Page 3

*The Resurrection and Our Hope
for Liberation*

RHM's Socials

Upcoming Events

Page 4

Recommended Reading
for April

Page 5

Social Jesus blog

Page 7

Budget Thermometer

Page 8

Weekly Zoom HeartGroup

Social Jesus Podcast

Finding Jesus...


available on Amazon



Follow RHM!

 Renewed Heart Ministries

 renewedheartministries

 herbandtoddjusttalking

 renewedheartministries/

 renewedheart.bsky.social

 renewedheartministries.com

thank
You 😊

Thank You!

We want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who supports the work of Renewed Heart Ministries. Your generosity makes it possible for us to continue our mission of love, justice, and compassion, even in a time when ministries like ours are being called to do more with less.

Your support means the world to us. Whether we're speaking into the broader society, engaging within our faith communities, or working one on one alongside others endeavoring to follow Jesus' teachings of love and justice, we remain committed to advocating for a world that is inclusive, just, and safe for all. **Your partnership helps keep our work alive.**

From all of us at Renewed Heart Ministries, **thank you.** We are so deeply grateful for you, and **we couldn't do this work without you.**

If you'd like to join them in supporting our work, please go to renewedheartministries.com and click on "Donate."

Or you can mail your support to:

Renewed Heart Ministries
PO Box 1211
Lewisburg WV, 24901

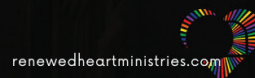


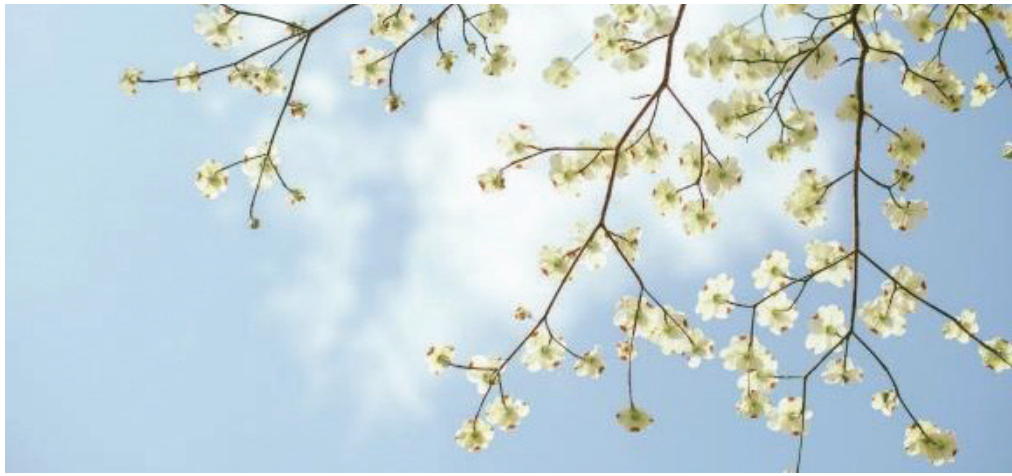
Are you receiving all of RHM's free resources each week?

You can find RHM on Blusky, Facebook, Instagram and Threads for daily posts. Our JFE podcast can be subscribed to through the podcast platform you use. You can also receive inspiration in your inbox from RHM delivered to your email inbox daily or weekly.

Go to renewedheartministries.com and click "Sign Up!" today so you don't miss a thing!

The ethic of universal love calls us beyond our comfort zones, inviting us to reconsider where our loyalties lie. It challenges us to resist injustice wherever it appears and to stand in solidarity with those who are marginalized. This love is not passive; it calls for courageous, transformative action that seeks the well-being, flourishing, and dignity of every person.





The Resurrection and Our Hope for Liberation

by Herb Montgomery

Our reading this month is found in the Gospel of Matthew.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” (Matthew 28:1-10)

This is my favorite time of year in the Christian calendar. It’s a time to reflect on the story truths of the resurrection narratives in the Gospels, to remember that state violence and systemic, imperial injustice do not have to have the final word in our world. The stories of Jesus’ resurrection boldly declare that systems built on domination and death cannot ultimately silence truth, compassion, justice. They proclaim that solidarity with the marginalized, in the end, is worth whatever price we pay along the way. Our efforts to shape our world into a safe, compassionate, just home for everyone are worth it. This time of year calls us to remember when, for those in our Gospels, what empire tried to crush on the cross was raised up again in living defiance. For Jesus followers committed to social justice, resurrection faith becomes more than belief; it becomes courage to resist oppression, stand with the marginalized, and work for a world where we reclaim our humanity again and again despite every force that tries to bury hope or silence love in our world.


Today, Easter stands at the heart of the Christian liturgical calendar as a declaration that death, injustice, and oppressive power do not have the final word. The empty tomb is not merely a miraculous event to be debated within our contemporary naturalistic world view, it is also a story of disruption of systems that continue to “crucify” today. The narrative truth of our story proclaims that the forces of empire, violence, and exclusion, made visible in every crucifixion and used to silence opposition through fear, are undone. Resurrection is not an escape from the world’s injustice. It’s a decisive response to it.

continued on page 4

RHM on Socials

You can find Renewed Heart Ministries on Blusky, Facebook, Instagram, Youtube and Meta’s Threads.

If you haven’t done so already, please follow us on your chosen social media platforms for our daily posts.

-  renewedheart.bsky.social
-  [Renewed Heart Ministries](#)
-  [renewedheartministries/](#)
-  [renewedheartministries](#)
-  [herbandtoddjusttalking](#)
-  renewedheartministries.com

**Authentic action is rooted
in authentic solidarity.
Before we can change
suffering, we must first be
willing to feel it and stand
alongside those who
endure it.**



Upcoming Events

APRIL 18, 2026

Good News Fellowship

Toronto, Ontario Canada

For info or Zoom link, email:
info@renewedheartministries.com

Recommended Reading for April

Here Comes the Sun: A Last Chance for the Climate and a Fresh Chance for Civilization

by Bill McKibben

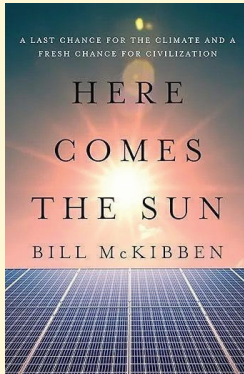
From the acclaimed environmentalist, a call to harness the power of the sun and rewrite our scientific, economic, and political future.

Our climate, and our democracy, are melting down. But Bill McKibben, one of the first to sound the alarm about

the climate crisis, insists the moment is also full of possibility. Energy from the sun and wind is suddenly the cheapest power on the planet and growing faster than any energy source in history—if we can keep accelerating the pace, we have a chance.

Here Comes the Sun tells the story of the sudden spike in power from the sun and wind—and the desperate fight of the fossil fuel industry and their politicians to hold this new power at bay. From the everyday citizens who installed solar panels equal to a third of Pakistan’s electric grid in a year to the world’s sixth-largest economy—California—nearly halving its use of natural gas in the last two years, Bill McKibben traces the arrival of plentiful, inexpensive solar energy. And he shows how solar power is more than just a path out of the climate crisis: it is a chance to reorder the world on saner and more humane grounds. You can’t hoard solar energy or hold it in reserves—it’s available to all.

There’s no guarantee we can make this change in time, but there is a hope—in McKibben’s eyes, our best hope for a new civilization: one that looks up to the sun, every day, as the star that fuels our world.



...Hope for Liberation continued from page 3

The empty tomb announces that what was meant to silence Jesus’ message of justice and liberation has failed. The execution of Jesus was an act of state violence, a public warning to anyone who would challenge systems of domination. Yet the resurrection exposes the lie at the heart of that power. Empires are not permanent, unquestionable, or unavoidably victorious. No. Love and justice are powers in their own right and cannot be buried forever. The stone is rolled away, not just from a grave, but also from the illusion that injustice will endure forever.

For us today, the resurrection carries important social implications. It calls us to see that the suffering of the marginalized is not invisible or forgotten. Just as God stood in solidarity with Jesus, raising him from death, so too does the Divine stand with those who are oppressed, exploited, and cast aside today. Easter invites us to align ourselves with God in that same solidarity. It challenges us to resist systems that crucify, whether through poverty, racism, patriarchy, economic inequality, LGBTQ phobias, or exclusion, and calls us to participate in the work of liberation, restoration, and justice.

The empty tomb also reframes how we understand hope. Hope is not passive optimism or waiting for change to come from elsewhere. Resurrection hope is active, embodied, and courageous. It is the kind of hope that compels action even when outcomes seem uncertain. The women who first encountered the empty tomb did not fully understand what had happened, but they moved forward anyway, carrying the message. In the same way, we are called to act for justice even when the path ahead is unclear.

Easter teaches us that what appears to be defeat can become the very place where transformation begins. The cross was intended to end a movement, yet became the catalyst for one that would keep challenging injustice across generations. That invites us to reconsider our own moments of discouragement. Setbacks in the struggle for justice are not the end of the story. New life often emerges from places of loss and despair.

Ultimately, Easter invites us to live differently, to embody resurrection in our daily lives, and to practice compassion, pursue equity and equality, and confront injustice with courage. The empty tomb is more than something to “believe in” in the sense of belonging to a creed; it also tells a truth at the heart of every movement for change: change doesn’t happen without struggle and setbacks. Even in our midnight moments, the dawn is still ahead. Winter gives way to spring. And in that light, the resurrection is something to participate in. It asks us to roll away stones in our own communities, to bring life where there is death, and to come together in the ongoing work of renewal. In a world still marked by injustice and inequality, Easter proclaims that another way is possible, and we are called to be part of bringing it to life.

Lastly, in our reading this week, the role of women as the first proclaimers of the resurrection is both striking and theologically profound. At a moment when the narrative turns from death to new life, it is women, specifically Mary Magdalene and “the other Mary,” who are entrusted with the first announcement of the risen Jesus. This detail is not incidental; it is central to understanding the nature of the gospel itself.

In the cultural and legal context of the first century Mediterranean world, women’s testimony was often marginalized or dismissed. Yet Matthew deliberately places these women at the heart of the resurrection story. They are the first to encounter the empty tomb, the first to receive the angelic proclamation, “He is not here; for he has been raised.” And they are the first to be commissioned to share this good news with the other disciples. Their role subverts conventional patriarchal expectations, signaling that the resurrection inaugurates not only new life but also a rending and reordering of social hierarchies.

The women are not passive observers but active participants. They come to the tomb with

continued on page 6

Social Jesus

Recent Social Jesus Blog Posts on Patheos:



Justice Lessons at the Well (Part 1 of *Justice Lessons at the Well*)

The story of at the well begins with mutual vulnerability, not with a loftier benefactor dispensing charity.

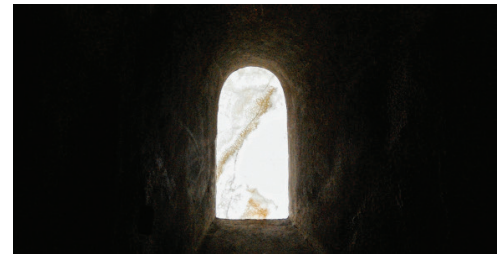
patheos.com/blogs/socialjesus/2026/03/justice-lessons-well/



Lessons From Our Differences (Part 1 of *Justice Lessons From Being Expelled*)

We don't have to use our differences as metaphors of inferiority to lift up the justice ethics in ancient stories.

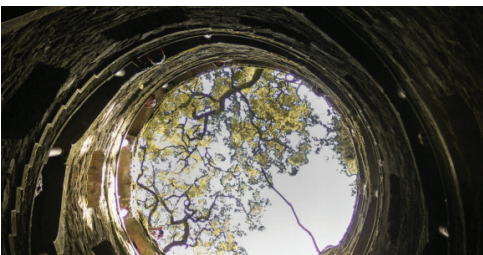
patheos.com/blogs/socialjesus/2026/03/justice-differences/



Lazarus and the Politics of Liberation (Part 1 of *A Story of Hope for our Present Moment*)

In the story of Lazarus, the narrative reason for Jesus' crucifixion differs drastically from the reasons in the Synoptic Gospels.

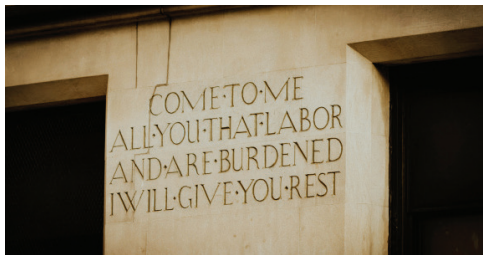
patheos.com/blogs/socialjesus/2026/03/lazarus-politics-liberation/



Stop Blaming the Woman at the Well (Part 2 of *Justice Lessons at the Well*)

This woman's story plausibly reflects more structural vulnerability. Repeated marriages in the ancient world signal exploitation.

patheos.com/blogs/socialjesus/2026/03/stop-blaming-woman-well/



The Precedence of Justice (Part 2 of *Justice Lessons From Being Expelled*)

Liberation, humanity, and justice is measured not by strict compliance but by precedence over the comfort of being approved by institutions.

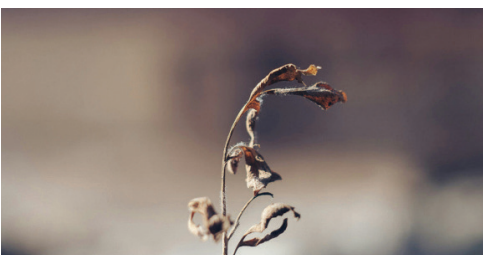
patheos.com/blogs/socialjesus/2026/03/precedence-justice/



Lazarus and Today's Struggles for Justice (Part 2 of *A Story of Hope for our Present Moment*)

Compassion is not distant from human struggles. Justice work and faithful action begin with genuine solidarity.

patheos.com/blogs/socialjesus/2026/03/lazarus-todays-struggles-justice/



Spirit and Truth (Part 3 of *Justice Lessons at the Well*)

This story challenges us to cross boundaries, to listen first, to trust that those most marginalized are messengers of truth and justice.

patheos.com/blogs/socialjesus/2026/03/spirit-truth/



Reclaiming John from Its Anti-Semitic Narrative Elements (Part 3 of *Justice Lessons From Being Expelled*)

The phrase "the Jews" in the Gospel of John has a long and troubling history of anti-Semitic misuse and harm.

patheos.com/blogs/socialjesus/2026/03/reclaiming-john-antisemitic-narrative-elements/



Lazarus and the Unfinished Work of Liberation (Part 3 of *A Story of Hope for our Present Moment*)

Liberation requires more than individual transformation; it calls communities to participate actively in our unbinding.

patheos.com/blogs/socialjesus/2026/03/lazarus-unfinished-work-liberation/

continued on page 6



Justice Lessons from the Final Scenes of the Gospel Stories

(Part 1 of *Justice Lessons from the Final Scenes of the Gospel Stories*)

The final scenes offer profound lessons for justice work today. They highlight the dynamics of power, oppression, and systemic injustice.

patheos.com/blogs/socialjesus/2026/03/justice-lessons-final-scenes-gospel-stories/



A Shared Meal and Betrayal

(Part 2 of *Justice Lessons from the Final Scenes of the Gospel Stories*)

Betrayal hurts deeply because it comes from those we believed stood beside us. Our narrative also reminds us that justice work must continue.

patheos.com/blogs/socialjesus/2026/03/shared-meal-betrayal/



State Violence and Sacred Resistance

(Part 3 of *Justice Lessons from the Final Scenes of the Gospel Stories*)

We are left in the wake of state violence and a guard posted at a tomb, and the silence and grief of hoping that resurrection might come.

patheos.com/blogs/socialjesus/2026/03/state-violence-sacred-resistance/

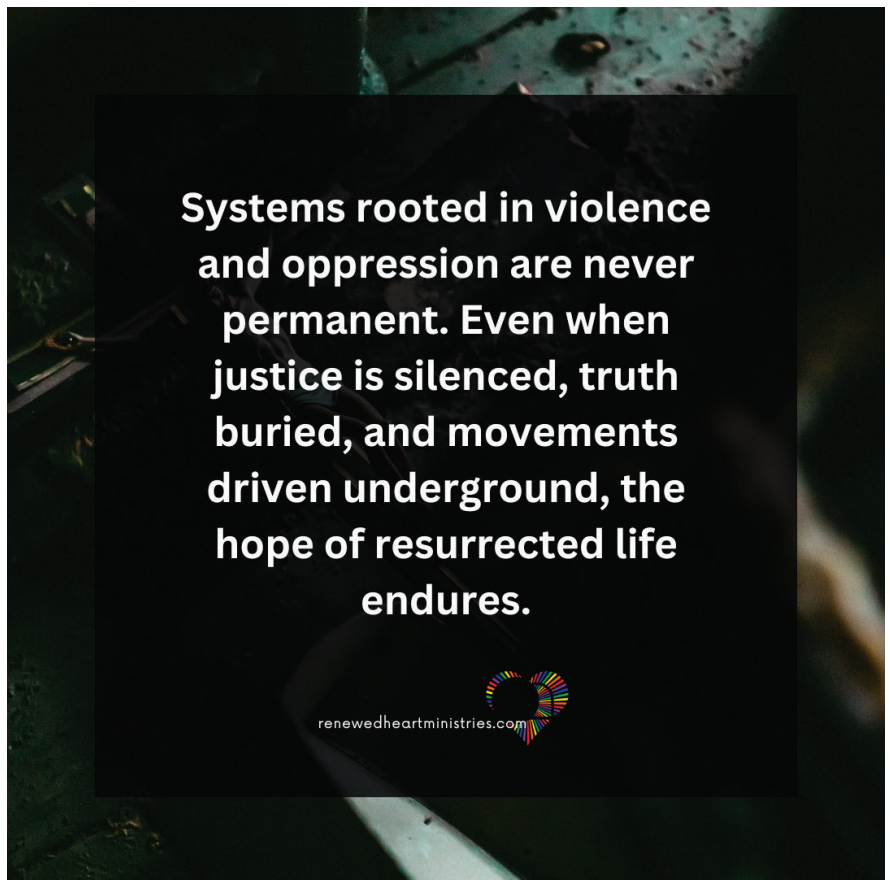
intention, and though they experience fear, they also embody “great joy.” This combination of awe and courage becomes the posture of authentic proclamation. When they encounter the risen Jesus himself, they respond with renewed commitment. And Jesus reiterates the commission the angel already gave them: they are to go and tell Jesus’ other disciples to meet him in Galilee. It’s a significant difference from other post-resurrection narratives in the Synoptics. In this moment, these women function as apostles: they are the ones sent with a message, and their witness forms the bridge between the resurrection and the gospel.

If we are to center the gospel in Jesus’ resurrecting rather than his dying, we must receive the gospel first proclaimed by women witnesses. Before any formal preaching, before the commissioning of the eleven, the women carry this good news. The gospel, then, is first proclaimed not in a synagogue or public square but along a road through the voices of those whose authority society often questioned. This underscores a key theme in Matthew: God’s reign is revealed through those on the margins, those overlooked or undervalued by dominant systems of power.

The contrast in Matthew 28 between the women and the Roman guards further highlights their role. While the guards are bribed to spread a false narrative, the women faithfully bear truthful witness despite the risks. Matthew sets up a clear tension between competing proclamations: one rooted in fear and self-preservation, the other in hope. The integrity of the women’s testimony becomes foundational to the teaching of Jesus living on in the lives of his disciples.

Theologically, this moment reshapes how we understand authority in the community of Jesus’ followers. Authority is not grounded in status, gender, or institutional power, but in an encounter with the gospel and a commitment to following Jesus’ teachings in the

continued on page 7



The work of helping people find life-giving ways to live out their faith through love, compassion, and justice are needed now more than ever. At Renewed Heart Ministries, we provide resources of faith and healing with the aim of renewing hope and inspiring action as we allow the Jesus story to inform each of us as we work together to shape our world into a compassionate, just and safe home for everyone.

RENEWED
HEART
MINISTRIES



Renewed Heart Ministries is a 501(c)3, grassroots ministry on the margins that prioritizes the needs of marginalized communities, especially those who have been the recipients of misinformed, faith-based harm. Your support enables us to be a life-giving, healing light in our faith communities and continue to be a voice for desperately needed change.

You get to decide what shape our faith communities take and what voices get to be heard.

You can support Renewed Heart Ministries with a one-time gift or by becoming one of our monthly contributors. Your donation can be made online at: renewedheartministries.com or by mail at:

Renewed Heart Ministries
PO Box 1211, Lewisburg, WV 24901

Whether you give \$5 or \$5,000,
every amount helps us to continue our work.

Please make sure you are receiving all of RHM's free resources by going to our website and clicking "sign up."

And **THANK YOU** for reading, listening to, sharing and supporting RHM's work. Thank you for the decisions you make every day to make our world a safer, compassionate, just home for everyone. Thank you for your dedication to engaging our world and the care you demonstrate, and for being such an important part of our community.

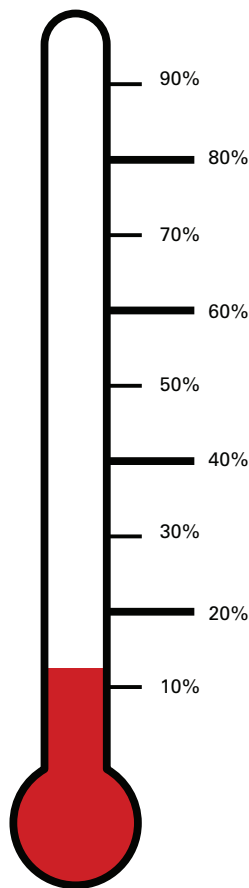
2026 Projected Budget Goal:

\$150,000.00

2026 Donations Received:

\$12,627.39

Thank You!



...Hope for Liberation continued from page 6

work to reshape our world into a safe, compassionate, just home for all. The women's role in this week's story anticipates that broader work. They bear witness to resurrection in ways that challenge injustice and expand inclusion from the very beginning of the gospel and the proclamation of Jesus' resurrection.

In our reading this week, we encounter women who are not merely witnesses to the resurrection but are its first heralds. Their voices carry the initial echo of the gospel, reminding readers that the good news begins on the margins, transforming individuals as well as the structures that shape human community.

Right where you are, keep living in love, choosing compassion, taking action, and working toward justice. ■

Quotable Quotes

"The disciples also saw that the spirit that had worked within Jesus continued to work in and through them. In their preaching they extended his critique of domination. They continued his life by advancing his mission. They persisted in proclaiming the domination-free order of God inaugurated by Jesus."

— Walter Wink;
The Human Being: Jesus and the Enigma of the Son of the Man

"The Crucifixion and Resurrection story is not simply about Jesus clashing with or triumphing over Pilate, but about a hopeful option for humanity to find a way out of the violence-based civilization it has created for itself."

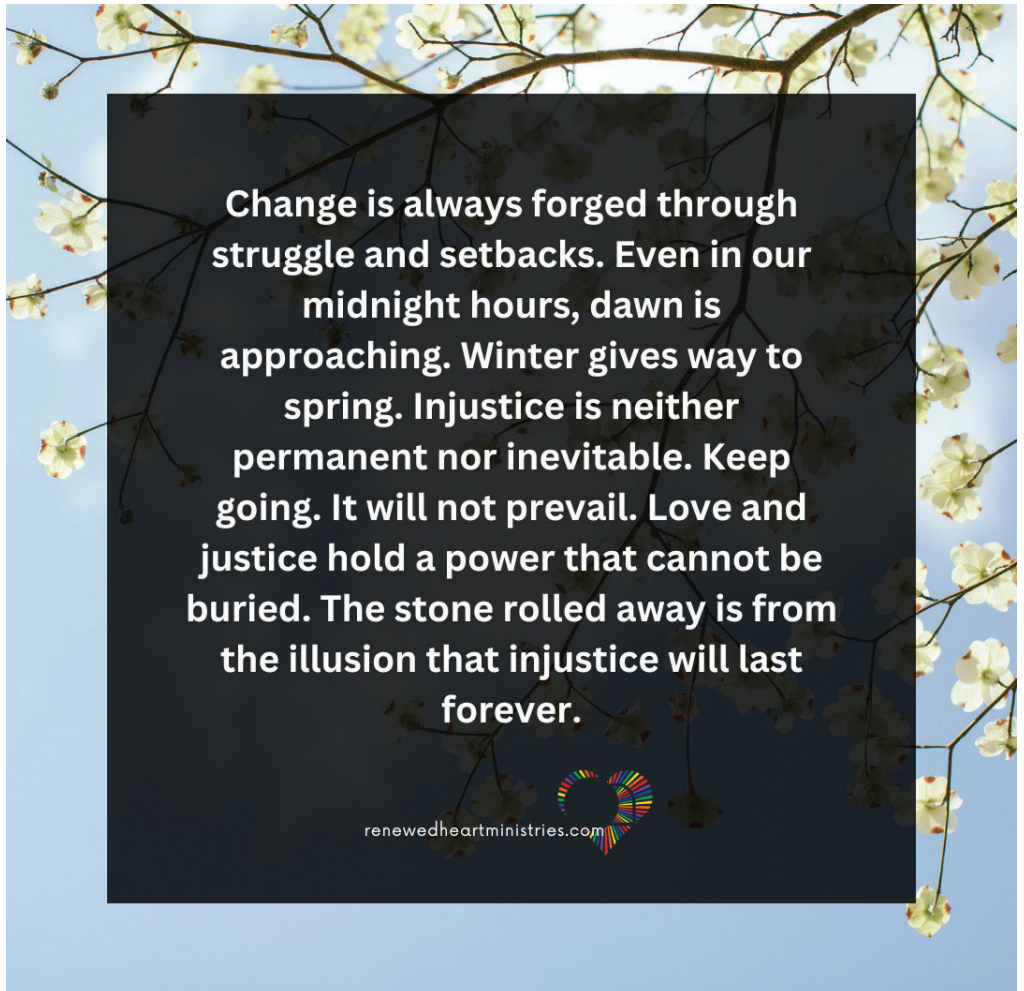
— John Dominic and Sarah Crossan;
Resurrecting Easter (p. 185)



Weekly HeartGroup on Zoom Every Wednesday Night!

Each Wednesday evening, Renewed Heart Ministries hosts a Zoom-HeartGroup led by Herb Montgomery. Our discussion each week will focus on the content in RHM's weekly eSight articles and the *Social Jesus* podcast. The time of each Zoom session will be on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Pacific/10:00 p.m. Eastern.

To receive the link for the Zoom meeting, email us at: info@renewedheartministries.com



Change is always forged through struggle and setbacks. Even in our midnight hours, dawn is approaching. Winter gives way to spring. Injustice is neither permanent nor inevitable. Keep going. It will not prevail. Love and justice hold a power that cannot be buried. The stone rolled away is from the illusion that injustice will last forever.



renewedheartministries.com



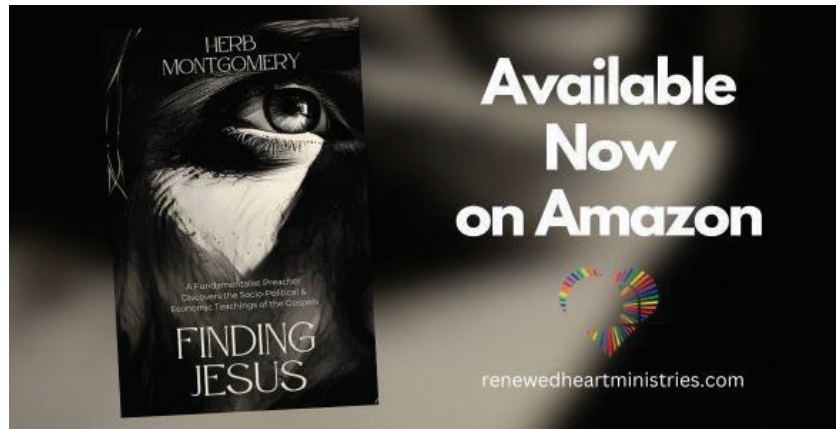
A podcast where we talk about the intersection of faith and social justice, and what a first-century, Jewish, prophet of the poor from Galilee offers us today in our work of love, compassion and justice.

Find The *Social Jesus* Podcast at:

<https://the-social-jesus-podcast.simplecast.com/>



Listen & Subscribe



Finding Jesus: A Fundamentalist Preacher Discovers the Socio-Political & Economic Teachings of the Gospels

by Herb Montgomery

In *Finding Jesus*, author Herb Montgomery delves into the profound and often overlooked political dimensions of the gospels. Through meticulous analysis of biblical texts, historical context, and social discourse, this thought-provoking book unveils the gospels' socio-political, economic teachings as rooted in a profound concern for justice, compassion, and the well-being of the marginalized. The book navigates the intersections between faith and societal justice, presenting a compelling argument for a more socially engaged and transformative Christianity.

Finding Jesus is not just a scholarly exploration; it is a call to action. It challenges readers to reevaluate their understanding of Christianity's role in public life and to consider how the radical teachings of the gospels can inspire a renewed commitment to justice, equality, and compassion. This book is a must-read for those seeking a deeper understanding of the social implications of Christian faith and a blueprint for building a more just and inclusive society.