

# Beyond the Battle

Then Jesus called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.

~ Mark 8:34-35

Quite in keeping with these displays of temper (*i.e. clearing the temple*) was the conduct of Jesus before Pilate. He was not required to tell a lie or renounce a conviction. All that was necessary to his release was to plead not guilty and defend himself against the charge of sedition. His death, therefore, was rather a suicide than a martyrdom.... As a man Jesus died because he had not the sense to live"

~ G. W. Foote (Author and Atheist), *The Freethinker*

"The mark of the immature man is that he wants to die nobly for a cause, while the mark of the mature man is that he wants to live humbly for one."

-*Catcher in the Rye*

"The Resurrection is not a belief that grew up within the church; it is the belief around which the church itself grew up. We must understand the difference."

~ C.H. Dodd, *Bible Scholar*

The blood of the Christian martyrs was an important factor in the growth of the Christian movement. Faith in eternal life enabled Christians to face death without fear.

~ Dr. Yap Kim Hao, *Bishop of The Methodist Church in Singapore*

**Luke:** Come on! Why don't you take a look around? You know what's about to happen, what they're up against. They could use a good pilot like you. You're turning your back on them.

**Han:** What good's a reward if you ain't around to use it? Besides, attacking that battle station ain't my idea of courage. It's more like suicide.

**Luke:** All right. Well, take care of yourself, Han. I guess that's what you're best at, isn't it?

~ *From Star Wars*

"Quite what transpired on that third day after the crucifixion is of course a complex problem. Nevertheless, it is a matter of historical record that *something* happened – and that this changed the course of world history like no other event before or since."

~ *Markus Bockmuehl, From The Cambridge Companion To Jesus*

"Everything turns upon the axis of the Resurrection. If Jesus had not been raised from the dead, we never would have heard his name, just as we don't know the names of the thousands of Jewish rebels who were crucified at the hands of Rome. Jesus would have become one more anonymous casualty of Roman imperialism."

~ *Mark D. Roberts, Philosopher*

Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated - the world was not worthy of them.

~ *Hebrews 11:35-38*

If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

~ *Paul, the apostle (1 Corinthians 15:19)*