



# Point of View

Dear Marketplace Friend,

Quick: let's play "word association." That's the old approach to "search engine." Before Google, you would say- or, hear - a word or phrase, and your brain would do your own personal "search." Let's play; here you go. Who said it, and where was he/she when they said it. Ready? "I have a dream..."

Doesn't take long to get that one right. It was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on August 28, 1963, standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial... looking across the reflecting pool at the Washington Monument... when his immortal comments given to a huge rally crowd captured the essence of the Civil Rights effort. One year later, the Civil Rights Act changed the course of American society. I have a dream...

That was a powerful - and, memorable - address, that day in the nation's capitol. There was another powerful - and, memorable - speech given in another capitol some years ago... that is similarly immortal. Let's play word association again; you tell me who, and where. Here goes: *"You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins."* (John 8:23-24)



No chance of tripping you up in THIS e-missive. I have too much history with Point of View; you know that I always come around to Jesus... except, usually, it takes me a little longer. Why so quick today? Yes, it was Jesus who said it, and it was Jerusalem where he said it. His hearers knew exactly what he was saying: he wasn't suggesting an "alternative," parallel spiritual offering to the Jewish community. Instead, he was boldly declaring a deal-point in God's treatment of a sinful, rebellious human race: unless they embraced him and his message - on HIS terms - they would die in their sins. No "Plan B." It would be the Lord Jesus Christ as their pathway to God and heaven, or they would miss it completely.

The reason I don't do my Sunday morning devotions out of the Los Angeles Times: they are likely to feature articles like the one yesterday with the headline, "Service

celebrates 2 beliefs." St. John's Cathedral - in downtown Los Angeles - was the site of a "noteworthy," "once-in-a-lifetime experience in worship" service. "Hindu nun Pravrajika Saradeshaprana, dressed in a saffron robe, blew into a conch shell three times, calling to worship Hindu and Episcopal religious leaders who joined to celebrate an Indian Rite Mass..."

The centerpiece of the event was the reading of a statement prepared by the Right Reverend J. Jon Bruno, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. It was an apology to the Hindu religious community for centuries old acts of religious discrimination by Christians, including attempts to convert them. "I believe that the world cannot afford for us to repeat the errors of our past, in which we sought to dominate rather than to serve." The bishop also said that he was committed to renouncing "proselytizing of Hindus." Let me translate the message into laity lingo: we Christians have been off-base sending missionaries intent on sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with lost Hindus (or, any practitioners of any other religious system, by implication). That was such deplorable behavior that we promise not to do it any more.

The Reverend Karen MacQueen, an associate priest at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pomona, said both faiths "revere great figures who embody the divine light, who teach the divine truth." Again, translated for we simple minded laity: we revere Jesus, but he is matched by the Hindu's revered sages. We have nothing over them; we need to regard them as just-as-savvy as we, and stop this evangelizing business...

Do we have that option? Listen to

Paul's take on the subject of Jesus: "...who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:6-11)

No apologies here. Evangelism continues, with Hindus... and with Episcopalians or Baptists or Presbyterians or anyone else who has not dealt with the exclusivity of Jesus. If you claim to be a Christian, but believe that another faith can save others, you are probably yourself lost and need a Savior. If you do not believe that he is the *only* Way, the *only* Truth and the *only* Life, you will *die in your sins*. Can you trust Jesus to tell the truth? *Can you trust anyone else?*

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