

JANUARY 9, 2026 FATHER MICHAEL COUTTS

Believers have done wonderful things because of their belief.

Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in a prison, because he wanted racial equality. Mahatma Gandhi spent intermittent periods in jail, because he believed in non-violence. Martin Luther King lost his life, because he had a dream. He believed.

In our own country, we had Terry Fox, who did a marathon every day, crossing from British Columbia, and with the hope to go all the way to Newfoundland. He died, unfortunately, in Thunder Bay. But he did a marathon every day. 26 miles, or 42 kilometres.

Now all these people believed in a cause. They believed there was something important that they would pour their lives out to.

Saint John, when he speaks about believers, he does not speak about believers in a cause, but believers in a person. In a person called Jesus Christ. They believed that Jesus Christ was truly anointed, the Messiah, the Son of God.

Now this is something that our world does not accept, because they want a person embedded in history. And Jesus was precisely that. Jesus came in the fullness of time. We are told in Hebrews, "God, who spoke about the Messiah, the word, through the prophets through the centuries, but in the fullness of time, came born in the flesh, and dwelt amongst us, a man like us, in all things but sin."

He was embedded in history. He was embedded in history because Caesar Augustus had sent out a decree that all should be registered. And Quirinius, who was the governor of Syria. So we have facts of history, and it is in these facts that Jesus Christ came, and dwelt amongst us. And

he was not only in historical figures, but a place. The place was Bethlehem, in Judah. So we have something very factual.

But Deuteronomy says if you want facts, in chapter 19, verse 15, there should be a testimony. A testimony on the mouths of two or three people, before something is declared as a fact. And John tells us, "There are witnesses to this. The Spirit, the water, and blood."

Now when we want witnesses and testimonies in any court, we speak about human beings. Beings who said, "I was there. I saw it. I can testify to this." So what is water, and blood, and the Spirit? How can these be testimonies today? Because these three refer not to people, but events in which people would testify that Jesus Christ was the Lord.

Water. Jesus was at the River Jordan, and John was baptizing. And Jesus came, and was baptized in the River Jordan. Now John made a noise, and said, I shouldn't be baptizing you, you should be baptizing me. And Jesus said, "Let it be done." And as he went into the waters, the heavens opened, and a voice was heard: "This is my beloved Son, listen to him." A testimony from God, which, as John tells us, is better than any human testimony.

The second testimony is the testimony of blood. And this comes at the end of Jesus' life, when he is crucified. When he is crucified, one of the thieves said, "Save yourselves, and save us." And the other thief said, "This man has done nothing. Why should he be crucified? We indeed had got what we had deserved." There's the testimony from a crucified man, and then the centurion finally says, "Truly, this is the Son of God." And Jesus ends that testimony with saying, "It is finished. You have given me, Father, a work to be done, and I have now accomplished it."

Testimony of water, testimony of blood, then testimony of the Spirit. The Spirit that leads us, and guides us, in order that you and I might

believe. You and I cannot just say, "Meh. Let me believe in this." No. We have to be inspired. We get knowledge, we get wisdom, we get understanding, to realize that this is the anointed one. Truly, the Son of God.

And we are called, and we are challenged, to (Unclear) this belief 2,000 years later. It's a challenge that is not just notional, it's a challenge that is not just cerebral. "I believe," and then nothing happens. It's a belief that overflows into my life.

Believers are the ones who will take care of the poor, the marginalized, the hungry. "I was hungry, and you fed me. "I was thirsty, and you gave me to drink. "I was in prison, and sick, "and you visited me."

Believers will take care of the immigrants, will take care of the undocumented citizens in our country. Believers are the ones who are peacemakers, who mourn because justice is not being done.

Believers are the ones that will fight for the freedom of speech, the freedom of movement, the freedom of everybody to say and to live freely, as children of God.

We have so many testimonies in our life today. These are the witnesses. These are the witnesses in water, in blood, and by the Spirit. We are called to do this, and we do it in our everyday life. We don't have to go out in front, and swear on a Bible, or a holy book, to say that what we are saying is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

We do it by the way your lives unfold from day to day. And then we will hear those beautiful words: "Well done, good and faithful servant, you were faithful in little things, come, and enter into the kingdom of God."

God bless you all.