

INSIGHTS FROM THE OUTSIDE

Column 2

TEMPLE OF DOOM, PART I

CAN HOPE INVADE THE TEMPLE OF DOOM?

by

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Stephen Spielberg's movie, "The Temple of Doom," portrays "no hope" for the people who had been randomly captured and brutally enslaved in the Temple of Doom deep inside the Mountain of the Dark Light. By being forced to drink the blood of diseased monkeys, their minds enter into a nightmare that never ends—whether asleep or awake.

Many people are randomly selected by genetic history to have our potentially normal world transformed into a Temple of Doom. The same confusion of brain chemicals that transforms our world also tells us the big lie—NO HOPE.

When depression enslaves us it shouts NO to all significant life questions. Will aspirations of acceptance, education, career, family, employment, security, fulfillment, and worthiness be realized? Will the pain go away and take with it the unceasing nightmare of the monkey's blood?

No! No! No! No hope!

Welcome to our world . . . please! Come, and bring hope with you. While we try with all that is within us just to endure, hope must invade from your world if it is to have existence here. It is your hope, not ours, that must first lead out against our deepest depression. In time, its power over us will diminish and we will be able to dream of better things. Then we will team with you to meet the challenges until hope becomes a motivating factor in our lives also.

Having emerged now into the realm of hope, I join those who invest their hope in me. With them I seek to invade the despair of those who cannot yet believe.

The answer is YES. This is a new age of knowledge, medication, and therapies that equip mental health professionals. Mental health organizations are educating the public and the media join them. Public servants such as educators, law enforcers, social workers, and others join the team effort. There are support groups where we help each other, and where our families can gain insight and encouragement.

These and others are seeking to invade our experience of doom. However, the granite-like walls of public stigma prevent most of us from coming together with these new-age resources. The majority of people, well and ill, are yet to come into the age of enlightenment. Consequently, many people who could benefit would rather die than face the personal losses that often accompany the stigma.

Hope can invade the Temple of Doom. However, the more crucial question remains. Will it? Will our majority populace, including the church, join the invading minority? Will good people equip themselves to cease being the problem and become the solution?

Indiana Jones, in the movie, is a fictional professor of archeology, who invades the Temple of Doom. His motive is to steal the magic stone that gives power to the evil god and its worshippers. Audiences are entertained by Jones' many superhuman exploits. He takes the stone and frees the captives, accomplishing alone what would have required many people in real life.

Here, beneath the Mountain of the Dark Light, there is an ancient legend of One who is greater than Indiana Jones. The legend says that people who drink His blood (Holy Communion) also take on His life and go out to all the world. Will they come to our world, the City of Doom? Many would have to come because our name is Legion (many).

Pastors, church members, district superintendents, bishops, leaders, and followers, please do not listen and look to find what answer emerges. There is no Indiana Jones. You are the answer!

Tune in again for "Temple of Doom Part II—Mr. Jones and Jesus."

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