

Day of the Christian Martyr

Inspired by those WHO ARE
SENT to the ENDS of the EARTH

*"I think it's worth it
to declare Jesus to
these people."*

JOHN CHAU, NOV. 17, 2018

KILLED BY THE NORTH SENTINELESE WHEN HE WENT TO THEIR ISLAND WITH THE GOSPEL.

God called John Chau to North Sentinel Island, where the Sentinelese have no contact with outsiders, their language is unknown, and they have responded violently to past contact. John still obeyed, preparing for the next 9 years to live among them.

On Nov. 15, 2018, John made first contact with the islanders in a kayak. A Sentinelese boy fired an arrow at John that lodged in his Bible. John retreated. "God, I don't want to die," John wrote in his journal. "WHO WILL TAKE MY PLACE IF I DO? Forgive any of the people on this island who try to kill me, and especially forgive them if they succeed."

The next day, John penned a note to his family. "You might think I am crazy in all this. But I think it's worth it to declare Jesus to these people." On Nov. 17, the fishermen who left John saw tribesmen burying his body.

As we honor John Chau, may we recommit our hearts to love nothing in this world more than we love Jesus and making His name known.

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What is a Martyr?

According to the original Greek, the word “martyr” actually means “witness.” Martyrs throughout the history of the church testified to the truth and power of Jesus Christ our Lord and believed that they should take that witness to others, no matter the cost.

These martyrs, including John Chau, all shared a common passion for God. Their passion prevailed over their fear of the severe consequences of being a witness to others. Perhaps part of their passion came from knowing the high price that Christ paid for their salvation. When faith costs us something, it becomes infinitely more valuable.

And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” —**ROMANS 10:14-15**

What does John Chau’s martyrdom inspire?

Those who have given their lives for the advance of the gospel did so as the next step in their own journey of biblical discipleship. They did not simply wake up one day, living a marginal Christian experience, and decide, “Today I’ll give my life for my faith.” No one is born as an exemplary biblical disciple; instead, we are all born into sin in a fallen world.

Each of us must intentionally learn, obey and grow to become more and more Christlike throughout the entirety of our lives.

Each of us can be inspired to live more faithfully for Christ by observing the transformative power of Christ in those who have paid the ultimate price for their own faith. Drawing from their example, we can take the next step in our own journeys as followers of Jesus. That is the mark of a maturing believer.

The Voice of the Martyrs’ award-winning magazine will inspire your faith with more stories like this one. You can get a free subscription to this magazine now at vom.org/subscribe.

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