

**Crucifixion, Resurrection, and the Power of Liberation**  
**Second presentation in a series on Liberation Theology**

Bruce Chilton

At the Rhinebeck Reformed Church

Beginning in South and Central America after the Second Vatican Council, Liberation became a major movement within theology, contributing to efforts of national and class revolution in several parts of the world. Despite enduring systematic attempts to silence them, liberation theologians have persisted, and their approach has been embraced on an interfaith basis. This series will engage both the thought and the practice of Liberation Theology.

**1) The force of vision**

**Mary Magdalene and her companions (Mark 16:7):** “But depart, say to his students and Rock that he goes before you to Galilee; you will see him there, just as he said to you.”

**2) The force of forgiving**

**Peter (John 21:15):** “Simon Rock, Simon of John, do you love me most of all? He says to him, Yes, Lord: you know that I love you. He says to him, Herd my lambs.”

**3) The force of teaching**

**The Twelve (Matthew 28:20):** “Teach them to keep everything, whatever I decreed to you. And look: I am with you all days, until the completion of the age.”

#### **4) The force of inclusion**

**More than Five hundred (Acts 2:39):** “The promise is for you, your children, and all those far away whom the Lord our God calls.”

#### **5) The force of healing & judgment:**

**James and Silas (Acts 1:6-8):** “Not for you to know the seasons and times that the father set by his own authority, but you will receive power when Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses both in Jerusalem and all Judea, and in Samaria, and until the limit of the earth.”

#### **6) The force of compassion**

**Barnabas and Cleopas (Luke 24:32):** “Did not our hearts burn in us, as he was speaking to us on the way, as he opened up the Scriptures to us?”

#### **7) The force of glory**

**Paul (1 Corinthians 15:47-50) :** “The first person was from the earth, of dust, the second person from heaven. As the person of dust, such also are those of dust; and as the person of heaven, such also are those of heaven. And just as we bore the image of the person of dust, we shall also bear the image of the person of heaven. But this I state, family, that flesh and blood cannot inherit God’s Kingdom, neither does decay inherit incorruptibility.”

For detailed discussion, see *Resurrection Logic. How Jesus’ First Followers Believed God Raised Him from the Dead* (Waco: Baylor University Press, 2019), easily available at, for example:

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/resurrection-logic-bruce-d-chilton/1131337185>.