

New Year's Resolution – Jan 12, 2015



Have you made your new year's resolution yet? According to the University at Scranton only 8% of the people who make a resolution actually keep it. This is because they aim too high such as giving up smoking and losing weight at the same time.

My resolution isn't difficult to keep. I'm aiming to be one of the 8%ers and keep my resolution ... and my resolution is not just to grow a beard.

The idea for a resolution came to me this past November when I was reading about the first colonist to reach the shores of this country and behead the unknown. I was awed by their struggle just to survive and more died than lived those early years.

I'm going to tell you what my resolution is but first I want you to change your mindset or way of thinking because you can't appreciate those colonist struggle with a 21st century mindset. You have to put yourself into their minds, their expectations, their hopes and their dreams. You have to know their fears and failures as well.

The colonist came over in mass numbers because of a math equation. The equation goes like this:

The cost of change must be less than the cost of inaction. Example the cost of a people to rise up against their government must be less than the cost of living under a repressive government.

These colonists believed that the cost of being confined in a boat for 6 weeks crossing the Atlantic Ocean was worth it.

There are 4 mindset shifts that I ask you to try and make with me.

The first mindset shift is **safety**. Most things that we do, we expect safety. The colonist didn't have safety in coming over to this land. They didn't have on star roadside assistance, Triple A or travel insurance – they were on their own.

The Roanoke Colony of 1587 had 90 men, 17 women & 11 children when the ship left for England for supplies. The relief ship came back 3 years later in 1590 due to the Anglo-Spanish war. The colony was gone, no trace. John Smith the leader of Jamestown colony from 1608 to 1609 wrote that Chief Powhatan admitted to him that his tribe slaughtered all of them. No safety no security but people continued to come to the Americas.

The second mindset shift is that **the police** or someone will come to your aid if you call. There was no police or army to come and rescue them. William Bradford was the first governor of the Plymouth colony. He wrote in "*of Plimoth Plantation*" the dangers that they expected to face:



4) "*casulties of ye seas*"

3) "*famine, and nakednes, & ye wante, in a maner, of all things. The chang of aire, diate, & drinking of water, would infecte their bodies with sore sicknesses, and greevous diseases.*"

2) "wild beasts"

1) "salvage people, who are cruell, barbarous, & most trecherous, being most furious in their rage, and merciles"

Their utmost fear was the Native American Indians. The horrors that they wrote about from the hands of the Native American Indians are too graphic for a lunch meeting. Even with the knowledge of the possible torture that one may face didn't stop everyone from coming over.

The third mindset shift is **Easy access to supplies**. I bought raw land in 1999 and over the last 15 years I've been able to build a house, plant a garden and orchard thanks to the readily available building supplies from Home Depot & Lowes.

The colonist didn't have that opportunity. They brought the tools but had to chop down their own trees for all building projects. The Plymouth colony put up their first house on December 20th of 1620 in the ice and snow and blowing wind. While we look outside at the cold from a warm house window, the colonist would be struggling to stay warm and keep their fingers and joints from getting too stiff to work.

The fourth mindset shift is **food**. We go home and look in our food in the cabinets and say, hmmm.... I don't know what to eat. I'm burnt out in eating this, that over there takes too long to make. This right here is out of date, I know, I'll just call for a pizza.

Food was scarce in the colony and without food you die. 5,000 people came into Jamestown colony from 1606 to 1623 – only 1260 survived. In 1608, 500 colonists landed in Jamestown but when the relief ship came a year later in 1609 only 60 remained. Had the ship been delayed by another couple of months then all would have been dead. The Jamestown colonists were so hungry that they were eating their leather shoes and some reports they resorted to cannibalism.

The winter of 1621 the Plymouth Colony was reduced to eating 7 kernels of corn per day. Look at the food before you and look at these 7 kernels of corn.



With all of the above mindset shifts in mind, my new year's resolutions are:

I resolve to be thankful for what I've been blessed with. There are actual police abuses but I am thankful for having the ability to call 9-11 for police, fire or medical assistance.

I resolve to be thankful for having the ability to drive around the United States in a car or hoping on a plane to travel around the world without having half my family die.

I resolve to be thankful for the house and job that I have. For having the opportunity to make mistakes that won't kill me. I'm thankful that there is a support network for those that are homeless that can find a warm bed in the cold, that there are organizations that will feed you and teach you a skill so that you can get back on your feet.

I resolve to be thankful for the food I have because any amount in my cupboard would be an immense treasure for those colonists who had to survive on 7 kernels of corn for the entire winter.

I resolve to be more thankful for all the blessings that I've been given and I encourage you to keep these 7 kernels of corn as a reminder, as an inspiration or as an encouragement to likewise make a similar resolution to be thankful in all that you have been given.

Regards,

Called/Chosen + Hear + Believe + Repent + Confess + Baptize + Abide = Salvation -> Proclaim
Mt22:14 + Lk11:28 + Jn3:16 + Mk6:12 + Rm10:9 + Acts2:38 + Heb10:26 = 1 Pt 3:21 -> Mt28:19-20