

YOUNG MEN WHO CHANGED THE WORLD

September 19, 2025

History has been changed by young men who had a vision to change the world. Most of them realized that to effect society for the longer term, they must reach out to young people, for they tend to be idealistic, impressionable, zealous and look for a cause to believe in and live for. Many leaders have greatly impacted their generation while they lived, but a few have had their greatest influence after they died at a young age.

Jim Elliot

He died as a Christian martyr at the age of 28 along with four other young men in 1956 while trying to reach the Auca Indians in Ecuador. They were a tribe known to have killed all outsiders who were caught in their area, including some oil field workers. Despite this, Jim and the four others were willing to risk their physical lives so that the Aucas could come to know one who could give them eternal life. When Jim and the others were confronted with spears held by the Auca warriors, Jim did not use his gun, for he knew the fate of the Aucas without Christ took precedence over his own life, for Jim knew he was ready for heaven. The bodies of Jim and the four others were later found on a beach, having been speared to death. News of their deaths quickly spread around the world. During his life, Jim Elliot longed for more people to become missionaries. Little did Jim realize that likely more young people would desire to become Christian missionaries through his death than as if he had lived. For decades to come, this event sparked a greater interest for missions than anything else. Jim's vision was carried on by his devoted wife Elizabeth, as she wrote books and travelled around the world. Elizabeth and some other wives later went to live among the Auca tribe and many of them came to Christ, including some of the men who had killed their husbands! Before I went overseas, the book, **Shadow of the Almighty** had a great impact on my life. Another great book was, **Through Gates of Splendor**. Jim was known for his zeal and this quote, which has inspired many.

'He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose. - Jim Elliot

A movie has been made about those 5 missionaries called: **END OF THE SPEAR/ You Tube** I heard about it years ago, but am now going to watch it myself. It is believed that about 40% of the Aucas (now known as Waorani tribe) have now come to Christ. A shorter version of the story is on **You tube: Operation Auca: Martyrs in Ecuador**

Charlie Kirk It is only after Charlie was murdered on September 10, 2025; that the world at large knew the extent of Charlie's global reach to spread the message of freedom, family and faith in Jesus Christ. Many fail to realize that Charlie was not just an advocate for conservative and Biblical values, he was an effective apologist and evangelist. Weeks before his death, Charlie told a friend: **'Politics is peanuts compared to Jesus Christ.'** (days before his death, Charlie was in S. Korea and Japan, where he even got to share the good news of Jesus with the country leaders!) Charlie left college after one year but gained wisdom beyond his years as he knew where to seek wisdom. He knew the Bible, read 100 books a year, consulted with those wiser than him, took about 20 courses from Hillsdale college (a foremost place to learn about the United States constitution and the Founder's ideals for our government based on Biblical principles.) This equipped him to be a missionary to college students. In one sense, Charlie became America's youth pastor as his chief passion was to change a generation of college age youth to have a Biblical world view.

Charlie knew about the dangers of Money, Sex and Power (a series we are covering in our weekly messages). He let others handle the ministry money and avoided being alone with any woman except his wife (much like Billy Graham did). One potential millionaire donor to his organization of Turning Point USA said he would give the money to them if Charlie would stop talking about Jesus. Charlie said no and told the man to give his money elsewhere. Charlie dealt with the temptation of power by staying humble and praising the 'team' rather than himself.

Charlie followed in the steps of Jesus of Nazareth, who was **'full of grace and truth'** - John 1:17. He was accused of being a fascist, but no fascist I ever heard about gave a microphone of free speech to his opponents (like Charlie did at his rallies.) Charlie was accused of causing division, but Jesus came for that purpose! Luke 12:51. He came to expose and destroy the works of Satan.

Prophetic voices throughout history have often been persecuted for speaking truth to a sinful and corrupt world. People may accuse them of being unloving, but true love seeks to **protect** others from harm that is caused by believing lies. - 1 Corinthians 13:7. Love does not approve or endorse evil while it may still accept the person. As I have written before about spiritual surgery. **Love is the antiseptic, but truth is the scalpel.** Charlie was murdered for speaking the truth to a segment of society that is caught in a cult of gender and sexual confusion and those who are *'captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy'* - Colossians 2:8.

I have watched several accounts of those who knew Charlie Kirk. I recommend listening to Frank Turek, a mentor to Charlie and who considered him like a son. Frank has ministered to college students for years and is a good intellectual defender of the faith. His website is **crossexamined.org**. He has two recent messages about Charlie, one is short and the other is longer, but well worth it as he shares his relationship with Charlie over the past 5 years and even up to the day he died as he was in the car to the hospital. **You tube: 'The Greatness of Charlie Kirk: An eyewitness account of his life and Martyrdom'** (1 hr.15 min)

You tube: My friend Charlie Kirk: A beacon of faith and reason (Charlie was age 31 when he past into the presence of Jesus. His legacy lives on!

'This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness rather than light. because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. - Jesus / John 3:19-20

Truth is hate speech to those who hate the truth.

JESUS CHRIST

He was murdered for speaking the truth to the world. Many false accusations were made about him by those who hated him. He confronted evil but also wept over those who were blinded by their unbelief. - Matthew 23. He died at about the age of 33, but his legacy and influence continues to spread around the world!

I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, It remains only a single seed. **But if it dies, it produces many seeds.** The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. - Jesus John 12:24-25

Jim Elliot, Charlie Kirk, Jesus Christ it seems a tragedy that they all died at such young ages for sharing truth. However, God's view is long term and eternal while we tend to focus on this temporal world. God is the Lord of the harvest and could see that the **spiritual harvest** of each of those persons would be greater after their deaths. Those who serve God will receive **honor** from the Father as their lives have brought **honor** to Him. - John 12:26-28. **Great is the reward** of those persecuted for the sake of righteousness. Matthew 5:10-12

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

Psalm 116:15