
Sunday, March 25, 2018
Did You Know?

Resolve

We tend to be impressed with people with strong resolve. They tend to be people with strong values and a great sense of purpose. They make all kinds of sacrifices to accomplish their goals. They have no quit in them. People like that are impressive; we are drawn to them, and that's one of the reasons why Jesus is so compelling to people in every generation. There was no one in all of human history that possessed a stronger resolve than our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Take a look at this passage from Mark 10:32-34:

³² They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. ³³ "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, ³⁴ who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."

As this band of brothers was making their way up to Jerusalem, it was Jesus who led the way. He is not portrayed as some prisoner that had been taken captive, tied up and dragged reluctantly to his trial and execution. Not at all! He himself determines his own destiny. He fully entrusts himself to the sovereign will of God the Father. Jesus is clearly aware of what awaits him when he arrives. He turns to his disciples and tells them that he will be delivered over to the Jewish leaders -- that he will be condemned to death; then he will be handed over to the Romans and they will taunt him and eventually kill him. Any normal man would run and we would not blame him, but not Jesus. He resolutely goes to Jerusalem. He leads the way for his disciples to the city of his death and it's important that his disciples accompany him, so they can witness the events that are about to occur.

What was it about Jesus to do what he did? Part of the answer is that he knew his mission.

Matthew and Mark say it like this: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Luke, in this way: "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Here's John's take: "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

Jesus, purposefully, resolutely went to Jerusalem to serve us, to ransom us, to seek and save us. So, this Passion Week, resolve to know this Jesus more and consider again what he did for you. Resolve to draw close to him in love, as he draws close to you.

Soli Deo Gloria.
Pastor Peter