

Passion Week of Prayer and Fasting



HEBREWS 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Jesus knew his time was coming, and coming fast. He knew betrayal, denial, and the cross were looming before him. He knew the host of heaven was watching with bated breath; the eternal fate of humanity hanging in the balance. His sacrifice would mean freedom from sin for a countless multitude of people down through the ages and across the entire earth, but oh! the agony and shame that he would have to endure on their behalf. What caused him to “set his face like flint” (Isaiah 50:7b) and to persevere in the race he was destined to run since before the earth was created? No doubt he was tempted to find another way, a way that wouldn’t include the ignominious torture of the cross. Early in his ministry Satan offered another way (Matthew 4:8-9); in his prayer in Gethsemane Jesus inquired of another way (Matthew 26:39). But any other way would be disobedience to the Father. Therefore he threw off everything that hindered, everything counter to the will of God, and pressed on in perseverance to fulfill “the race marked out” for him. He set his eyes not on the obstacles in front of him, but on the joy of the result of obedience: taking his place in the very presence and power of God, and bringing multitudes with him to enjoy his presence forever.

Are there obstacles in your life? Is there pain you are enduring? What would you gain from giving up now? On the other hand, what will you gain from pushing through? Let us pray that the Holy Spirit would give us inward vision to see the outcome of obedience, to be energized and sustained by hearing “Well done, good and faithful servant” when all is said and done. Let us consider the opposition the Perfect One faced, so that our opposition, whatever form it takes, will not be able to stop us from persevering, experiencing the joy of the Lord (which is our strength - Nehemiah 8:10), and keeping our eyes on the goal.

Prayer Points

That the salvation message of Christ death and resurrection will be experienced by people who don't know Jesus in Calgary, Alberta and Canada.

- **1 TIMOTHY 2:3-5** *“This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus.”*