

Sermon: Following Jesus His Way

Speaker: Nelson Nyman

I have this recurring dream.

It's officiating a wedding but not realizing it's me doing it until I am 5 minutes from the start, then having someone come up to me and ask, "When are you getting changed?" only to look down and see I am wearing boxers and a t-shirt while everyone else is in a tuxedo not to mention, not having anything prepared.

It's a stress-induced dream.

Ever had something stressful coming you knew you had to go through.

Luke 9:51 As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.

"Taken up to heaven" that's looking on the bright side.

"When he saw his death and sufferings approaching, he looked through them and beyond them, to the glory that should follow..."

(x2) "...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." Hebrews 12:2-3

1. Overcome momentary stress by fixing on Jesus

Follow his example.

"For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."
1 Corinthians 4:17-18

Resolution to go... Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. Everything led up to this one moment. To be Resolute - admirably purposeful, determined, and unwavering

52: And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; 53 but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem.

...because?

How would they know it was in God's plan for them to reject him? Did you ever think rejection might be a good thing?

2. Rejection can be part of God's plan

Example: "Unanswered prayers." Garth Brooks

"Sometimes I thank God for unanswered prayers
Remember when you're talkin' to the man upstairs
That just because he doesn't answer doesn't mean he don't care
Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers."

Some of the things we want may be nothing more than distractions... Are you ever distracted from God's purpose?

Application: Can you think of a mission you've abandoned? Annso and I have been talking about "Finishing things". Lots of things are easy to start, moderately difficult to carry on, and very difficult to complete totally.

"Dear brethren, our real trouble is not doubt about the way upon which we have set out, but our failure to be patient, to keep quiet. We still cannot imagine that today God really doesn't want anything new for us, but simply to prove us in the old way. That is too petty, too monotonous, too undemanding for us. And we simply cannot be constant with the fact that God's cause is not always the successful one, that we really could be "unsuccessful": and yet be on the right road. But this is where we find out whether we have begun in faith or in a burst of enthusiasm." ~ Bonhoeffer

The call of God can be hard, lonely, and stressful. Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. He knew he would be rejected. Being rejected by this village was nothing compared to what was coming.

"Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil." Proverbs 4:25-27

Sometimes the first step in knowing what we're called to, is knowing what we're not called to. How to know what's a distraction and what's important?

3. God's call is consistent with his character

"Keep your foot from evil" What do we do when the world tells us to take a shortcut to quit? Example: What do we do when we are given the advise to break one commitment to make another?

What does the word of God say about that?

"Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil." Matthew 5:37

They were rejected by the Samaritan village... Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.

54: When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked,

"Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" 55 But Jesus turned and rebuked them. 56 Then he and his disciples went to another village. Luke 9:51-55

Grave errors are often committed with good intentions.

Review: "God's calling is consistent with his character." Certainly God wouldn't want a whole village destroyed simply out of ignorance. Maybe only a few from the village even met them anyway.

"...how much there is of pride, and passion, and personal revenge, covered under this pretense of zeal for your Master." ~ Matthew Henry

At least they asked permission. Grave errors are often committed in the name of God. History is filled examples. ...breaking the 3rd commandment:

"You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name." Exodus 20:7

Have you not been taught to love your enemies, and to bless them that curse you, and to call for grace from heaven, NOT fire from heaven, upon them?

Review: God's call is consistent with his character. Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. But went to other villages on the way instead of that one. How to I respond to distractions or setbacks?

4. Don't quit 5 minutes before the miracle

Stay in the struggle. It's worth it:

Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. Isaiah 50:7

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Church Membership Meeting

The governing body (board) of this Church has become too small to be effective.

It is my responsibility as the Pastor to do my very best to bring this Church back to spiritual health. This is the reason we are gathering together today. I hope to close this meeting with an active member list for mainly the purpose of voting on decisions involving the future of the Church body God has entrusted us with. I want us to make a commitment to the Church which is to each other.

Description of Members

Members are:

- 1. Voluntarily baptized believers in Jesus Christ committed to sharing the Good News of salvation.
- 2. Generally agree with the "Covenant and Statement of Faith" of our Pu'uanahulu Baptist Church.
- 3. Expected to be faithful in the duties necessary to the Christian life, to attend the services of the Church, to give regularly for its support and to actively participate in it's organized work.

Policy:

The government of this Church is to be democratic with each active member having equal voice by vote when present at any given business meeting.

This Church is an autonomous (self-governing) body.

To the best of our ability, we will cooperate with and support the Big Island Baptist Convention and will participate in their programs of work. (Lottie Moon offering, etc.)

The Church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of the "Baptist Faith and Message". (available here today or on line)

For those willing let's stand and repeat together:

"Covenant and Statement of Faith"

Closing Prayer:

(please repeat)

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant (us) to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together (we) may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:5-6

Anyone not present who would like to get their name on the list, please let me know who they are. After pot blessing we will meet for a short minute about a couple things.