

ANTICIPATING THE CROSS

Luke 18:31-34

One of the traits that sets us apart as human beings is our ability to _____ both the good and the bad
In this passage we glimpse the inner sanctum of Jesus and at the core of His being we find the _____

I. THE CENTRALITY OF THE CROSS TO THE MISSION OF JESUS

- A. This is the _____ time in the Gospel of Luke that Jesus announces that He has come to die bloody
 - 1) In this passage, Jesus is on His way to _____ for the final time and He knows what awaits Him
 - 2) It is a misunderstanding of the gospels to think that because Jesus faced increasing opposition, it gradually dawned on Him that He would die as a _____ ; rather Jesus always understood this truth
- B. All that the OT _____ wrote about Jesus would come true: He would be mocked, scourged & killed
 - 1) According to Lk. 2:41-47 it is probable that Jesus understood these prophecies when He was _____
 - 2) These OT prophecies include Psalm 22, Isaiah 50:6 and Isaiah _____

II. THE COURAGE WITH WHICH JESUS FACES THE CROSS

- A. Vv. 32-33 list 7 verbs that testify that Jesus had _____ each step to the Cross in Technicolor
 - 1) Yet He said, “Behold we are going up to Jerusalem”—“I set my face like _____ to go to Jerusalem”
 - 2) Jesus would have been less than human if he had not _____ the tortures that awaited Him
- B. While He fully imagined and anticipated the Cross, yet Jesus faces it with a 3-fold courage:
 - 1) His courage includes an iron _____ —absolute determination: He would not turn back from the Cross
 - a) Jesus’ dogged determination to die on the Cross helps us to measure His _____ for you and me
 - b) Jesus’ iron will is an _____ to us (1 Pt. 2:21): little of value in life is accomplished without it
 - 2) His courage combines this iron will with _____ and concern, not a “John Wayne” macho manner
 - 3) His courage includes the strength to face the final days heading to the Cross completely _____
 - a) In 3 ways, verse 34 indicates that the Twelve do not _____ Jesus’ anticipation of the Cross
 - b) Until AFTER the _____, the disciples could not understand the true meaning of Christianity
 - c) We must also have the courage to follow Jesus even when it means going it _____

III. THE CONSOLATION THAT EN-COURAGES JESUS AS HE FACES THE CROSS

- A. 6 of the verbs in vv. 32-33 describe the suffering and death of Jesus; the 7th is “rise _____”
- B. For over 20 years Jesus not only anticipated His death, but also His _____ (Ps. 22; Is. 53)
 - 1) Hebrews 12:2: “for the _____ that was set before Him [He] endured the cross, despising the shame”
 - 2) These OT prophecies promise to Jesus not only resurrection, but a people and a _____
 - 3) As we take up our cross and follow Jesus, let us look beyond the pain to the _____ God promises