

03032024 Sunday's Coming!! It has been a long almost three years of Jesus public ministry. And now **Jesus decisively set his face for Jerusalem for the last time, knowing the fate that awaits him**

NLT LK 9: 51 As the time drew near for him to ascend to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem

The cross has been his goal all along, the plan of salvation formed between the Father and the Son before the foundation or creation of the World. But the information was being delivered to the Apostles one byte at a time...

For there was much training to be accomplished with what time was left...for those who would carry on after his departure...Think of the stress Jesus was under...he is going to Jerusalem...he knows how it will end...while he also as the stress of preparing his Apostles for this departure...

- You see Jesus knew the men he had chosen.....He knew things about them they were not even aware of yet...**
- He knew their pride,would become humility... their fears would become faith..., their shortcomings would transform into strengths.....**
- he knew these were the men who would change the world they lived in...through His Holy Spirit power once His presence would leave them...and the Holy Spirit would indwell them ... and the Holy Spirit will equip them ...**
- They will have Faith that will move mountains...because it will be God faith...not their own....but faith in him....**
- They will think thoughts like Jesus!! They will be in tune with Jesus ... They will have faith like Jesus does in the plan of His Father and they will have faith in the Father's will and plan for them for them!!**
- They are not there yet but they will be...**

So with that understanding we will examine some experiences as recorded about John and some recorded by John regarding his walk with Jesus when Jesus lived on earth...we will find parallels to our own..

Everyone has a history...So does the Apostle John was the youngest of the apostle's whose older brother James was also an apostle. They were in the fishing business...very competitive...a man's mans type of job... partners with Peter and James...and **Both of them along with Peter made up Jesus inner circle...**

As to their ministry James was the first Apostle to be martyred and John was the longest living Apostle. John wrote five books in the new testament... the most as an eyewitness of Jesus lifeThe Gospel of John 1-2-3 John and revelation .

- **John witnessed Jesus' supernatural work in the everyday brokenness and messiness of life...he observed that Jesus was full of grace and truth... He spoke the truth...yet even the hardest truths were saturated in Grace...to help and not hurt... in fact 27X in John's gospel Jesus is described as working....he was always doing things to help people.... And know God....**

JN 5: 17 Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.

- **John knew Jesus because he watched closely the little things Jesus did... the little thing the things others missed and not even recorded except in the lives of those people he helped and the chronicles of heaven**
- As John records at the close of His Gospel *ESV John 21:25 Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.*
- **Jesus public consisted of about 1100 days...so everyday...he was doing incredible things for anonymous people... john did not nor could not write it all down... this tells us how much God loves individuals...and does not even care if it is recorded...he loves us**

- **And John would have taken special note of this humility and service of the Lord...as he being the youngest...this type of hospitality would fall to a lowly servant or the youngest in the group or family....**

ESV John 13:12 When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.

- **Jesus says that messy lives and dirty feet flow together, helping people clean up is important, spiritual and practical for God's servants to do.**

However there was a troubling character issue with John

Jesus referred to both James and John the as sons of thunder for they could be rash and unthinking quick to react with a fighting spirit when angered, threatened or rejected. They did not always apply the gospel to earthly matters.

In fact when Jesus called the apostles...they were the only ones Jesus called out a character defect which would need to be remedied...

ESV Mark :317 James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder)

Here we go

ESV Luke 9:51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. ⁵³ But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said,

“Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?”^[e] 55 But he turned and rebuked them.^[f] 56 And they went on to another village.

- I came here to save not destroy...they reject now but they will receive later...quit going by your hurt feelings
- And then

NLT MK 9: 38 John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw someone using your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because he wasn’t in our group.” I mean I squashed it....and your welcome...but he kept on anyway

- As you know were the only ones who can do miracles right???
- John ... felt the need to fight for greater miracle market share and personal following...hey this is our monopoly...

*****I see an apostle who is insecure...insecure people are often full of thunder.. they can be controlling and envious individuals especially when they feel threatened...I wonder what happened to him in his childhood...bullied? Felt powerless...nobody will take advantage now...**

- **Insecure people look through the lens of ...how will this effect me? So they often miss the good going on....**

➤ **The man was doing a wonderful work of God. And helping people...But John did not accept him because he was not one of them.**

- I am sure the demon possessed man was happy this guy drove him out...but who cares about results...

Poor Jesus he is heading to the cross...and John is bummed someone is carrying out the Mission on earth of Jesus

NLT MK 9: 39 “Don’t stop him!” Jesus said. “No one who performs a miracle in my name will soon be able to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰ Anyone who is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ If anyone gives you even a cup of water because you belong to the Messiah, I tell you the truth, that person will surely be rewarded.

Jesus reply...**DO NOT STOP HIM.... If he is doing a miracle in my name...he is connected to me...and if he is connected to me.... His is connected to the Father ...He is connected to you!!!**

- **Listen John....If someone so much as gives a glass of water because he is connected to me...even that will be rewarded by me!!!**
- **Serving others even a little gives you heavenly reward and stature...all service to others in Jesus name is remembered by and rewarded by Jesus!! And some of God's kids will not like it! They often try to hinder the work of God in the name of God...**
- **Someone else was effectively doing the works of one belonging to Jesus but that person was not them...so he must be stopped...Right Jesus??**

which leads Jesus to explain again about his future..this is much bigger than you... again a little later on the way to Jerusalem

ESV MK 10:32 And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him,

So John is witness to this Jesus Gives More details....your tripping on that..listen here this...

Mark 10: ³³ saying, “**See**, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. ³⁴ And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.

We are going to Jerusalem and I will die there...giving them more detail...This absolutely rocks hem

- 1. I will be betrayed (by his own) ...someone close to me will turn on me. And hand me over to my enemies who hate me... the High Priest and religious leaders**
- 2. The High Priest and religious leaders will hold court and condemn me to death...this legal term indicates he will be tried and condemned within the criminal justice system**
- 3. The Gentiles Rulers will carry out the sentence of Death**
- 4. Jesus describes his violent torture and death**

5. **I will suffer greatly**...they will Mock, and spit on me, (humiliate me)... flog me (beat me unmercifully) and ultimately kill me.
6. And Three days later I will rise from the dead...and live

Well that will take your insecurity to a whole new level!! **And what does that mean for them... they are shattered, their expectations of Jesus and their personal hopes and dreams and future is what????...they are completely disillusioned...**

They thought he was going to be the victor!! Which means they will be victors But all they heard was that he is going to be a victim! ... which means we will be their futures were in grave danger...

However Jesus assured them on Sunday when he rises from the dead and is alive...the mission carries on... **...but they were stuck and focused on Friday**...though they did not know the day of the week these things would take place at that time...**whenever there is a Friday in our lives there is always a Sunday coming!!**

Jesus is never an unsuspecting victim... He is the King and the conqueror...and everything he does has been preplanned...and will work out exactly as he has determined...This is the path to victory! Listen if the destination is guaranteed Victory...then whatever path I must travel on the way there is worth traveling. ...Whatever obstacle I must overcome on the way there is worth overcoming ! Whatever trial I must endure on the journey there is worth enduring.

John interrupts with a burning question...ok your going to die...there is still something to gained here...Ok were all apostles but can we be your number two and three in the pecking order?...

➤ John reveals his heart.... Insecurity causes people to be competitive..and even with other apostles of the Gospel...being one of twelve is not good enough...we need to be better..

MK 10: 35 And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." 36 And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" 37 And they said to

him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory."

ok your going to die...and go to glory...we want/ need the second and third most powerful spots...

- **Jesus knew the real men he had he knows everything about them...he was not stuck on the present condition..but on who they would become!.....**

- **He knew things about them they were not even aware of yet...**

MK 10:38 "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?"

- **Jesus responds you don't know what you are asking this for? As if this is a popularity contest...who has greater pull with Jesus contest...who is the best of the Apostles?**
- **He knew their pride, their fears, their insecurity, their shortcomings...but He did not hold it against them...in fact these were the men who would change the world they lived in...through His Holy Spirit power once His presence would leave them... ..**

The question he asked them is can you be selfless enough to drink the cup God has for you on the mission to save people like I must?

MK 10:39 "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with,

- **Indeed they will drink the cup of God's willGod's will, will be nourishing drink to their soul...**
- **Insecurity will turn into complete security...where they sit will no longer matter...what matters is doing the will of God...**
- **Jesus tells them who sits where has already been etermined...not by grants ...but by a plan..**

40 but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared." Kind of like what Jesus said to peter when He asked about John who once agin is insecure wanting to know what Jesus is saying to Peter.....later...

John 21: 21 When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?"

22 Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me." Then after further discussion...Jesus tells them why he must drink his cup

*ESV Mark 10:44 and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.*⁴⁵ *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."*

- They are blown away again...for the first time he states why he is going to die....He will be ransom for many...
- **Ransom...payment of equivalent value to liberate a slave or to set a captive free... for the one is not a slave...to sin...will take on the penalty of sinners..to free in slavery to sin...**
- He will be the ransom to set many captives free... The payment of the death of God...is enough to set all men free.
He came to serve man willingly it was His plan...His plan was not to be served by man...but to set man free by giving his life for men...
- So will his disciples be servants... or slaves of all that Jesus will set free...

John had to learn to rest in the love of God for him...he does not need to fight for power, position self worth...and it took time...

But Jesus was right again...

one thing stood out to John more than anything else.....he knew Jesus loved him... in fact he is referred in history as John the beloved!!

John describes himself as the disciple Jesus loved, **Five times in his Gospel...**Jesus loved him so much

And John also would learn this ...that the love JESUS HAD FOR HIM...WAS THE SAME LOVE HE HAS FOR US AND IS THE ONLY REASON JESUS LEFT HEAVEN TO COME TO EARTHWHEN HE PENNEDTHE MOST FAMOUS VERSE IN SCRIPTURE

ESV JOHN 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

He came to know this...

NLT 1 John 4:16 We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love.

May we learn this about Jesus too!!

End