

Have a different mindset
Philippians 2:5-11
April 5, 2020

What was Jesus' mindset? On this Palm Sunday we look to that Sunday before Jesus was tried, beaten and then nailed to that cross, not for anything He had done, no, Pilate knew it and washed his hands of it and gave in to the rowdy crowd.

Jesus walked into Jerusalem that Sunday before He would endure what He came to do. Luke put it this way: **Luke 9:51** When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. Texts from the Old Testament may come to mind as well, **Ezek. 21:2** "Son of man, set your face toward Jerusalem and preach against the sanctuaries. Prophecy against the land of Israel or **Is. 50:7** But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

Jesus had the mindset to enter Jerusalem that Sunday. He knew entering it would be His last time. Yet, He still set His face on entering in to His fate, His predetermined death. No virus would have deterred Him for this is what He came to do.

His mind was set. He had a mindset, a mind set on carrying out His mission of bringing salvation to a cursed mankind, cursed with sin from the original parents. He was the fulfillment, of the promise of a Son, born of a woman who would defeat the serpent and win back God's original intent for man, made in the image of God, living forever with Him.

Jesus could have come in all His power and glory but instead, He wanted the devil to know, as God knew of Job, that Jesus could endure all this world could throw at Him and much more. Yes, more in that He not only endured the cross, despising the shame there but endured the punishment of the Father by enduring the punishment for all sin, believers as well as unbelievers. God had Paul write it this way: **Rom. 5:7-8** For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

There was no other way. He had to die as a man to pay for man's sins. No other man could do it for no other has or ever will be perfect. He was perfect even though there was nothing about Him that we should see as special if we were to see Him walking down the street. No, He emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, born in

the likeness of men and who grew up looking just like any other man. There was no change on the outside appearance of Adam either when he fell into sin, but there was definitely a change inside him and Eve after they took of that tree and ate. The image of God had departed and the image of sinful man entered and dwelled through them and their offspring to you and I.

Jesus mindset was not to use all that He had as God. He laid it aside and normally kept it hidden, showed Himself as a humble man, obedient to His Father in heaven where they set in place the answer to man's sin and came fully human and fully God, obedient to the end, even death on a cross.

Paul wrote to the Philippian church that they were to have that mind among themselves as well. God had Paul write them what He wants us to hear and understand too. We, too are to have that mindset as well, which is ours in Christ Jesus.

Paul writes of Jesus not relying on His equality with God as something to take ahold of. Jesus was fully God, able to do as He did when He created all that was created with just a few words. Yes, there were times when He used it a little, all within His plan for the world. He calmed the storm, healed the sick, raised the dead, fed thousands with little and even turned water into wine but it wasn't all these that touched those many who follow Him even today. No, the greatest feat was His entering into Jerusalem to die, die upon that cross, fully man in our place.

Before He went to the cross, Jesus was tempted in every way as we are and yet was without sin. He began His ministry with temptation and ended it as well, tempted to not go through with what He went through for His love for us and all mankind. He went through with it for us knowing what awaited Him and us was heaven, where the tribulations and trials of this world can touch us no more.

Paul was writing to the church that was still dealing with this world as each of us is. We are dealing with a world, where death still exists for all. No one is immune to death as we have seen so much lately on the TV and in our lives as the corona virus is taking lives, even while many are trying to discover the cure that the Lord has out there for man to discover. Who would have thought something discovered for Malaria might help?

You are viewing and hearing this service and you are not even here. The program and the equipment weren't even thought of just a few years ago. God knew what was coming and how it could be used in situations like we have now. What a

great discovery, almost like the feeding of the 5000, no way and yet even if you were on the other side of the world, you could tune in this morning. But an even greater discovery for you and for the rest of the world is the discovery given by the Holy Spirit that each person, no matter who they are, all have the same Savior and that is Jesus Christ.

The virus could take our lives but that would mean we get to be in paradise that much sooner. The promise to the thief or maybe the murderer on the cross next to Jesus is the same for us. We will be with Him forever because of the faith we were given, given to believe in the one who rode that donkey, into Jerusalem that Palm Sunday so many years ago.

We have been given faith but what do we do with that faith? It is a gift, even greater than being healed of a disease or a virus. It is a gift that takes us from death to life. It is the gift that is the antidote for the virus of sin, the sin that Jesus set His mind to pay for when He took it upon Himself on the cross.

We are to have that kind of mind, a mind set on what Jesus would have us do. He set His mind on going to Jerusalem. Yes, they were cheering Him on as He entered and there were those who cheered, I'm sure when He got what they thought He deserved on that cross.

Jesus gave up all He had in heaven for a time to come for you and me. He came willingly and went willingly to that cross so that you and I would no longer be slaves to sin but free to live forever with Him.

So how do we respond? With the mind of Jesus, or the weak mind of Adam and Eve who took from that tree and ate? Yes, it was a beautiful fruit. Yes, it tasted so good and yes, it made them wise to a new world, a world where there would be pain and sorrow, where sin would result in diseases and viruses where man would suffer and even die.

Our temptations are the same that Jesus had to endure. Yet what is our mindset compared to that which is in Jesus? Jesus didn't count equality with God a thing to be grasped. Yet, how many times do you want to be your own God, deciding sin, for that pleasure that you are tempted to partake of even though you know it is wrong. Or what about that dose of power, you know deep down you should not take as it infringes on the freedom of another, believer as well as sinner.

If we think about it, how hard is it to humble ourselves to take on being a slave? Oh, we don't have that mindset at all. No, we look to our "RIGHTS" and fight against service to others. It would be hard to give in. I might take away from that puffed up view our ourselves to stoop down to understand them, may even take time out of our day devoted to our god, ourselves.

How many times has Jesus provided those in our lives and instead of taking time for those we knew or have wondered in our hearts if they really knew Jesus, we let them go on that road with the bridge out or a cliff that means certain death, not just a broken arm or stint with a deadly virus for some.

We have been given the miracle cure. Jesus who went down that street that Palm Sunday was walking to that cure not only for us but for all creation.

There are so many, especially now who are really taking a look at the future, their future and the possibility that this virus will put a stop to their taking their next breath, ventilator or no ventilator.

Who are these people? Do you know them? Are they your neighbor or maybe a friend or relative or maybe someone you have been looking at and they seem to be distracted, or fearful, wondering if life will be the same or if there will be life for them at all.

Don't know any, you say. Are you being honest with us or with yourself or your neighbor? Repent and believe that Jesus can use even you. Are you willing to let your reputation be enslaved? Will you humble yourself to the point of death, death, not on a cross but death to that old Adam that seeks to rear its ugly head so many times in our lives?

Having the mind of Jesus, isn't going to be easy, nothing that is worth anything hardly ever is. Jesus came from His heavenly home to this sin filled earth so that we too could share in His rule, to live with Him, carrying the name that is above every name, confessing Him forever.

How could we fully know the mindset that Jesus had. Oh, we dream of it and at times it might look close to it but we still are sinners, saved sinners but sinners that have been made Saints, not by what we do or don't do but because of the Man who rode down that street so long ago with the mindset of going to a cross to die for us.

Have this mind among yourselves, which is ours in Christ Jesus. Yes, we take a knee to Him, confessing who He is to those around us.