

With His Face Set Toward Jerusalem

Intro: Luke 9:51-53 *“Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem.”*

I. Born For A Purpose

- A.** Death is something we don't want to mention. Decay, aging, breakdown, and death are things we fight against – with some measure of success – daily.
- B.** Jesus lived with the knowledge that one day he would walk towards a cross. He was born to die, literally.
- C.** The apostles did not understand this, but they were willing to walk the road with him (“let us go die with him” John 11:1-16). They sometimes tried to talk him out of it, but his face was set.
- D.** He did this purposefully. His life was “takin’ it to the streets.” He came from heaven and brought the salvation and grace and teaching we needed.
 - 1.** He brought it to the Samaritan woman at the well, to the woman caught in adultery, to blind beggars by the side of the road, to lepers, tax collectors, prostitutes, and sundry other outcasts.
 - 2.** He brought it to the religious establishment, to the political establishment, to leaders and to followers.
 - 3.** He did it at the cost of his own life – in two ways: the death on the cross, but also the way he spent his life here.
 - 4.** That life was severely limited and he knew it; but he chose to spend it in the cause of the Father of All, our God.
 - 5.** Then He told us to go into all the world and do the same thing, with one exception: no one had to die as a sacrifice for sin anymore. Now, we gave up our lives not for guilt, but for mission.

II. Takin’ It To The Streets – the Rochester Church

- A.** We have made great changes here. We are serious about doing the work of the Lord. We know that this means being more “other” oriented than “self” oriented. Rather

than designing and promoting programs that serve us – or subgroups of us – we are sacrificing so that others will see Jesus. I would like to share with you several examples of this.

1. Jason Steckel and the Gulf group.
 2. Kamal Samson and his work in Honduras (and Stephanie and Nadine).
 3. Caroline McMahon and her work in Ukraine, now ended.
 4. The current groups in the Bronx and in the Gulf.
 5. GHH.
 6. Shutlz-Lewis and Sunny Glen, the City of Children.
 7. Marquette and Petoskey
 8. Brazil and Uganda
- B.** Jerry Tallman's tears over the coffee shop crowd. My prayers at Great Lakes Mall. Our creation of Mosaic.
- C.** It is our determination – we have set our face – to reach every possible group within our reach; right here in Michigan. We aren't sure what that will look like, but we are willing to follow the Spirit of God however He moves us.
1. Designer churches? New church plants? Satellites?
 2. New ministries and small groups will have to grow exponentially.
 3. This congregation will have to determine to be the feeder, the root, and the supply line for the work of God: that may require us to grow to 1500 or 2000.
 4. It can be done – if we set our face to this mission.

III. First Steps

- A.** Are you in a prayer group? Small group? Ministry? No one ever decided against being in these things because they were too spiritual already. Don't avoid contact and connection. Don't avoid going deeper. Set your face to this.
- B.** When we reach out, we expect some to kick and fuss. They are used to being served rather than serving, to attending rather than teaching and inviting. The Samaritans refused to accept Jesus because his face

wasn't set towards them. We will not take the path of the Samaritans.

- C.** Every one bring one. In the month of March, we are challenging every person here to bring one person with them. Bring them to worship, introduce them to the ministry staff and elders, take them out to lunch afterwards and tell them how important they are to you – for they are! And bring them again.
- D.** Jesus wasn't kidding. Follow Him.