

"I Have Set My Face Like a Flint"

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Introduction: Jesus shows us how to live life with determination.

- A. Have you seen the face of someone who has been filled with determination toward a worldly goal? What are they like? (Ex. Sports team, practice and adversity)
 - 1. Determination sets priorities and determines the use of time and resources. It can be seen in what one has "time for."
 - 2. The mind is focused and often renewed. Adversity brings added effort!
 - 3. Determination combined with wisdom is very powerful.
- B. What can we learn from Jesus? What would it have been like to have seen Him?
 - 1. Isaiah describes His determination. "I have set my face like a flint. (Isa 50:7)
 - 2. This is an interesting description. What does a face of determination look like?
 - 3. What is characteristic of a flint? There will be adversity but who will yield?

I. The face of Jesus during His ministry

- A. He understood that He came to suffer and die for a purpose. (Isa 53:4-5)
 - 1. Try to grasp what this meant! He has a life of ridicule and rejection.
 - 2. There is nothing that we will face that will compare to Jesus.
- B. He followed God's plan with confidence.
 - 1. He knew that God was in control and would provide. The outcome was certain.
 - 2. He simply needed to stay within God's plan. (Jn 7:15-18, Jn 8:28-29)
 - 3. He plainly spoke of the kind of death He would die and why this would occur.
- C. He knew that man needed a savior and an eternal place with God.
 - 1. He understood what it meant to be lost. (Jn 8:21, 24)
 - 2. He had a face of compassion as He pointed to the way He would lead all men. (Mt 9:36-38, Lk 19:8-10)
 - 3. His miracles pointed to both His identity but also to His character. He truly sought the very best for every man. (Mt 14:14: 20:30, 33-34)
 - 4. Jesus had a face that would open hearts, expose their thoughts and would seek to heal them. However, he could not make people trust Him.
 - 5. What if Jesus came here? What would you see? - A loving determination!

II. The face of Jesus leading to the Cross

- A. Many fail when finally faced with what they fear. It is easy to rationalize and run.
 - 1. When the time came, Jesus was determined. (Lk 9:51-53)
 - 2. Jesus moved boldly to face a terrible suffering He fully understood.
 - 3. His disciples knew of a danger and that Jesus would not be turned. (Jn 11:16)
- B. Jesus had a face of great agony in the garden.
 - 1. If only we could see the face of Jesus described in scripture. (Heb 5:7-8)
 - 2. The son of God in great agony. What did He ask three times?
 - 3. Have you ever seen tears as blood? (Lk 22:44)
 - 4. If we could only see this then we would understand how bad hell is.