

"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*.

5. Jesus found a determination from the garden which never wavered.
- C. Men saw Jesus' face when He was betrayed and when He was denied.
1. The crowd came to chase and arrest Jesus but they were startled to see His determination to face them! That face knocked men over! (Jn 18:3-8)
 2. Judas saw the hurt of Jesus but did not turn back to Him.
 3. Peter saw the hurt of Jesus and was crushed to later return! (Lk 22:61-62)
 4. If only we could see the face of Jesus and His determination to take us back!
- D. The face of Jesus at the cross opened hearts and minds.
1. Jesus consistently thought of others. What a contrast to His enemies. (Lk 23:34)
 2. Many that day were startled at what they witnessed. (Lk 23:47-49)
 3. If only we could see this face when considering the meaning of our lives. We could have this purpose as well. (Lk 9:23-24; Heb 12:1-4)

III. The heart that produced the face

- A. Jesus learned to carefully listen to God. (Isa 50:4-7)
1. Listening is very risky. When we trust God and listen we will be changed over time. Jesus grew in wisdom. (Lk 2:52)
 2. How does listening produce determination? It comes from knowing that God will never fail you and thus causing you shame.
- B. The greatest truth about God is His holy, unchanging love.
1. Jesus knew what God had done for men and for Him. (Psa 22:3-4, 9-10)
 2. Jesus knew that men needed Him and even as we were enemies He died for us. (Rom 5:6-8, 10)
 3. Please consider that Jesus' love for us does not depend on our actions. We can be enemies and still see a face of love that can open our hearts.
 4. His love for us ultimately gave Him a "face like a flint." (Ex. Parent – child)

IV. Imitating the face of Jesus

- A. The apostles came to have the face of Jesus! (Acts 4:11-13)
1. We can also have the determination and boldness of these men.
 2. The need of salvation should change everything about us. Heaven becomes real. Hell becomes real. Our lives change completely. (2 Cor 5:13-15, 17)
 3. We learn to listen and we come to know God.
- B. The love of God turns us into dead men who are resurrected.
1. When we understand how to die then we will know how to live. (Rom 8:18)
 2. The promises and character of God gives me confidence in my forgiveness and God's future provision for me. (Rom 8:15-17)
 3. These things come from God's word and not the false theology of men.
- C. When we have the face of Christ, we will not fear men. (Ezk 3:7-9)
1. Jesus never hesitated to combat false ways and to overturn the schemes of men.
 2. A face of flint will become more determined in sufferings. (Rom 8:35-38)

Conclusion: What do you see in your mirror?