



Transforming Love

Easter 2025

Devotion 1: A Transformed Perspective: Setting Our Face Toward Jerusalem

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**“As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.”
— Luke 9:51 (NIV)**

In Luke 9:51, we see a profound turning point in the life and ministry of Jesus. He “resolutely set out for Jerusalem,” fully aware of what awaited him—rejection, suffering, and death on a cross. Yet, beyond the pain lay victory, resurrection, and the fulfillment of God’s redemptive plan. This pivotal moment is not just about geography; it’s about purpose. Jesus’ unwavering determination reflects a commitment to God’s mission of transformation and salvation.

As we approach Palm Sunday and the celebration of Jesus’ triumphant entry, it is vital to first pause and reflect on this deliberate journey toward the cross. For it is in his determined march to Jerusalem that we see the heart of discipleship and transformation.

Discipleship: Following with Purpose

Jesus’ decision to go to Jerusalem was intentional. Likewise, our journey as disciples is one of intentionality and purpose. In setting his face toward Jerusalem, Jesus invites us to set our faces toward him, to follow wherever he leads—even when the path is difficult.

Discipleship is not merely about learning doctrines, enrolling in a program or participating in church activities. It is about aligning our lives with the mission of Christ, walking in his footsteps, and embracing his purpose. Jesus’ example challenges us to move beyond comfort and convenience, committing ourselves to the transformative journey of following him.

Transformation: The Journey Toward New Life

However, Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem was not just about sacrifice; it was about transformation. He was moving toward the cross to bring about new life and resurrection. In the same way, our journey as disciples involves dying to self so that we may live fully in Christ.

Transformation happens when we allow the Holy Spirit to shape our hearts and minds. As we journey with Jesus, we are called to be agents of change, bringing hope and healing to a broken world. But this requires us to set our faces toward our own Jerusalem—those places where God is calling us to step out in faith, to serve, to sacrifice, and to be transformed.

A Call to Intentional Discipleship and Mission

As we reflect on Jesus’ resolute determination, we are reminded of our calling as a community of believers. At the Baptist Union of Victoria, we are committed to making disciples and fostering flourishing communities that embody the love and hope of Christ.

Let us be a people who set our faces toward God's purpose, embracing the call to intentional discipleship and transformational mission. May we journey together toward the cross, allowing the resurrection power of Jesus to renew and empower us for the work ahead.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, as we follow you toward Jerusalem, grant us the courage and commitment to walk the path of discipleship. Transform our hearts and minds, that we may live out your mission of love and hope. Help us to be intentional in making disciples who reflect your glory. In your precious name, Amen.

Study Questions

1. What "Jerusalem" are you facing in your life today?

Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem with purpose and determination, even knowing the challenges ahead. What difficult decisions or challenging situations is God calling you to face with courage and faith? How can you embrace these moments as opportunities for growth and transformation? What might "Jerusalem" look like at different stages of life?

2. In what ways can you be more intentional in your discipleship journey?

Jesus' journey was marked by purpose and obedience to God's mission. Reflect on your daily walk with Christ. Are there areas where you feel called to greater commitment or intentionality? How can you better align your life with Christ's mission of love, hope, and transformation? Who else can you encourage in their discipleship journey?

3. How can you be an agent of transformation in your community?

Just as Jesus journeyed to bring salvation and new life, we are called to be agents of change and hope. In what practical ways can you reflect Christ's love and bring healing and transformation to those around you—whether at home, work, church, school, sports clubs or your neighbourhood?