

Getting past wrongs and hurts...

We are each called to “*fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of faith...who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, **despising the shame**, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*” Heb. 12:1,2

When Jesus was crucified, there was much shame put upon Him. Accused, mocked, and betrayed... Sometimes I think the mental and emotional suffering of Jesus may have been as great or greater than His physical suffering. Jesus knew what to do with all that came against Him as He was being unjustly treated. He “*made no threats: but he trusted Himself and everything to Him who judges fairly.*” 2 Peter 2:23 Furthermore, He “*despised the shame*”, keeping His eyes on the joy that was set before Him. When we go through something unjust, and we keep our hearts clean toward God and man, there is a joy set before us. Someone once said, “For every death there is a resurrection”. You may be going through, or have gone through, the death of a dream or a relationship. It may seem unjust. Remember, God is not unjust. Don’t waste time figuring things out – who was right, who was wrong, how can I prove the truth to others....?

Most of us go through some form of injustice in our lives – if not about ourselves, then about those whom we love. This can be the most difficult thing to get through. Jesus led the way for us. He bore such things in Himself during the process of His crucifixion. The cross itself was an unjust action that declared Him to be a dangerous criminal, a false prophet. What an attack against Him! What agony at being thought of as someone evil! Yet, He “*opened not His mouth...*”

What is even more amazing is that He could have called “twelve legions of angels” to His defense and things would have turned around really fast! But...then we would have remained in our lost condition. Instead, He laid down His life. He laid down His reputation. He laid down His right to be understood, to be vindicated. He laid down His right to be right!

Perhaps you have had to lay down your right to be right. Perhaps you have dealt with misunderstanding, and there are some people you wish you could straighten out. Perhaps others have thought ill of you when you know it isn’t true. If so, Jesus has gone ahead of you in these things. He has borne such hurt on your behalf, and in His atonement there is provision for complete deliverance from such hurt. Do what you can to be reconciled and to be at peace with those who have hurt you. (Matthew 5:24, Romans 12:18) Some things, however, will probably never get straightened out this side of heaven.. In the mean time, forgive and offer up the sacrifice of thanksgiving. Look ahead in anticipation of joy. Ask Jesus to give you His anointing to “despise the shame” of seeming failure and misunderstanding. Fix your eyes ahead and anticipate seeing the “goodness of the Lord in the land of the living”!

Jackie has been meditating on 1 Peter 5:7: “*Casting the whole of your care (all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all) on Him, for HE cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully.*” (Amplified Bible). She realized that the word “casting” is a very strong word: it means to “THROW”. This is a very deliberate action, like a pitcher throwing a baseball. He takes aim, and with all his might hurls that ball into the strike zone. Casting our cares on the Lord is not a passive thing. Take those cares and wad them up like a ball, spit on them like Jesus spit on the shame (He despised it, didn’t He?) and aim that wad of cares right at God the catcher! He’s just waiting for this. He can handle it! Throw that wad of cares and disappointments and hurts with all your might! Throw them with faith, and with praise for all that Jesus has done. ON HIM, it says. ON HIM! Because He carried them all on the cross!