



Sermon Notes — Pastor Thomas Keys, SRMBC

The Hope Of Easter I — A Made—Up Mind Scriptures: Luke 9:51 - 62

INTRODUCTION

A few years ago, the United Negro College Fund had a slogan for their commercials: “A mind is a terrible thing to waste!”- showing that African Americans should not waste the minds God has given and strive for knowledge by attending college.

But the most powerful statement about the mind comes from the Bible – the Word of God that challenges us to have the Mind of Christ. In fact, Philippians 2:5 implores us to “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus” And when we have the Mind of Christ – we love like Him, Live like Him, and Lead like Him.

SERMON POINTS

We are beginning our sermon Series – The Hope of Easter – from selected Scriptures in The Gospel of Luke – the Gentile Physician who wanted to write an orderly account of Jesus’ life and ministry for his friend Theophilus.

In Luke Chapter 9, Jesus knows it is now time for Him to make His way to Jerusalem where suffering and death on the Cross is awaiting Him. But after His suffering – He would be taken up. So, despite what trials and troubles He is facing – He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem. In other words, Jesus had a made - up mind to do the will of God no matter what. So, what I want to do in this message is to look at Jesus’ made up mind so we can make – up our own mind to truly see and experience the Hope Of Easter.

I. Acknowledge/Appreciate Christ’s Made – Up Mind (vv. 51 – 52)

- ♦ **Purpose In Christ’s Made – Up Mind** — The Scripture says Jesus knew that it was time for Him to be taken up. Jesus’ His purpose is to be the Lamb of God – to sacrifice His life so that you and I could be saved, healed and forgiven. Some preachers and churches have tried to distort the purpose for Jesus coming into prosperity, and a life of ease. But His purpose is to save us from sin and give us the power to become the Sons and Daughters of God.

- ♦ **Persistence of Christ’s Made – Up Mind** — My wife often gets puzzled when we go to Carrabba’s or Macaroni Grill – I get the same thing: Chicken Parmesan. She asked, “Why do you get the same thing all the time?” I always answer, “When I find what I like I stick with it...” And Jesus despite the distractions, detractors and the Devil, set His face to go to Jerusalem to the Cross to save us – even though we were not worthy (All while knowing we would still sin and fall short – even after being saved).
- ♦ **Passion of Christ’s Made – Up Mind** – Jesus has passion. On his way to Jerusalem – he sent messenger that He’s coming with His saving and Healing power to the Samaritans – an outcast group of mixed – race people, that were hated by the Jews. But these are the people that Jesus turns his attention to. Beloved I need to let you know that at your lowest point and at your darkest hour – Jesus had you on His mind. “...*Crucified and laid behind a stone. He Lived to die - Rejected and alone. Like a rose trampled on the ground. You took the fall and thought of me...Above all...*”

II. Avoid the Confusion of a Mixed – Up Mind (vv. 53 – 56)

- ♦ **Symptoms of a Mixed – Up Mind** – The thing about folks with a mixed-up mind is that you may not know you have one. So here in vv. 53 – 56 we see some symptoms and solutions of a mixed up mind...
 - ⇒ **Rejecting Provision/Salvation** – The Samaritans hear about Jesus coming – and because he was ultimately headed toward Jerusalem, they got an attitude and missed out on their blessing. How many times have we missed a blessing from God because we didn’t like the package it was in?
 - ⇒ **Responding With Indignation** – Another symptom of a mixed-up mind is responding with malice. James and John are disciples following Jesus – yet they want to call down fire and destroy people like Elijah did (I Kings 11:10). But Jesus came to save, not destroy. The most dangerous person is someone who has a lot of Bible knowledge, but very little of the mind and heart of Jesus.

- ♦ **Solution for a Mixed – Up Mind** – What I love about Jesus is that he doesn't leave His confused disciples with a mixed-up mind. He gives them a Word of Correction.

⇒ **Receiving Correction** - Jesus rebukes James and John for not understanding that He came to save lives not to destroy them. Note that John was known as one of the Sons of Thunder– but later after spending time with the Word – he becomes known as the disciple Jesus loved.

The point I want to make is that we should not give up on folks simply because they may be mixed-up right now. And don't give up on yourself because you make some mistakes when you were a little mixed-up. Receive the correction of the Lord and move on.

III. Accept The Cost of a Missional Mind (vv. 57 – 62)

As Jesus makes His way to another village – he runs into 3 men. Each of them presents the cost of the Mission that we need to set our minds on...

- ♦ **The Cost of Adversity** – The 1st one meets Jesus and decides to follow Him – but The Lord lets Him know that even Jesus, the Son of Man/Son of God, has to suffer the Adversity of not having everything that He desires or even deserves (a place to stay). Listen, there is a cost to following Him. There is a cost that says we must be willing to deal with some adversity.
- ♦ **The Cost of Priority** – The 2nd man is called by the Lord to follow Him – but he needs his priorities adjusted. He says he wanted to bury his father, but it is unclear whether His father just – died, or if he was still living. But Jesus warned that following Him and fulfilling the call on his life was more important than anything. Beloved, we need to count the cost of serving Jesus the most important thing in our lives.
- ♦ **The Cost of Consistency** – The 3rd man declares that he will follow Jesus – but first wanted to go back and wish his family goodbye. He obviously wanted to linger in his old lifestyle and follow Jesus at the same time. But Jesus reminds him that once you put your hands to the plow, there is no turning back. The mission of Christ calls for a mindset of consistency and dependability. Beloved, we must be consistent in our worship, prayers, service, giving, and in displaying Christ – like character as we follow after Jesus.

Microsoft Windows was announced by Bill Gates on November 10, 1983. Microsoft introduced Windows as a GUI Operating System Program to replace MS-DOS. The Windows Operating System is the program that enables your computer to do everything it does. Starting small, Windows now controls or operates 77% of all the Computers in the world. Microsoft's goal is to ultimately bring every computer under one name and one brand.

And Jesus is the center of God's program. God the Father is summing up of all things in Christ. God's program is quite simple— to bring everything, everywhere, and everybody, under the tutelage, the authority, and the dominion of The Lord Jesus Christ.

- He began His ministry by being hungry, yet He is the Bread of Life.
- Jesus ended His earthly ministry by being thirsty, yet He is the Living Water.
- Jesus was brought as a lamb to the slaughter, yet He is the Good Shepherd.
- Jesus died, yet by His death He destroyed the power of death.

Starting in this Lenten Season, let's make up our minds – to get with the program and follow hard after Jesus Christ!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

How would you compare Jesus' mission to Jerusalem with the mission of the Church? ...To the calling on your life?

When you read/study the Bible, are you allowing the Spirit to correct your thinking about certain areas of your life?

What has the Lord been calling you to do? What do you believe you need to do overcome what may be hindering you?

How does it make you feel when you consider that Jesus made up His mind to go to Jerusalem and face certain death on the Cross for your salvation?