

Milk Toast?

Can you imagine if Jesus was a non-committal, milk-toast Savior?

If he had been, we wouldn't have just celebrated the hope of Easter because he never would have chosen the cross! Who would, in their right mind, choose the foremost object of extreme torture, punishment, suffering, and death in the world at that time? Who would further choose the overwhelming weight of the sins of the entire world to be borne on their shoulders? Who would trade perfect communion with God and absolute flawlessness of character for the wages of rebellion and sin?

Only someone with an understanding of their purpose and an unwavering commitment to fulfill the outcome of that purpose. Hebrews 12:2 reminds us that Jesus *"for the joy set before him endured the cross..."* Is Hebrews saying here that Jesus was a masochist? Was he looking forward to the sufferings of the cross with joy? Of course not! We know that in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus was *"overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death"* (Mark 14:34).

Jesus believed in, trusted in, and was fully committed to live his life around the very words of God's purpose and promise. He knew that Isaiah 53:10-12 spoke of his life as the Messiah:

Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Even Jesus was motivated by the promises of God, the impact of his life, and the prospect of his reward. It was his solid hope as he joyfully embraced his purpose. What about you? Are you a milk-toast Christian? Are you grabbing for the promises but rejecting your purpose? Refuse Satan's temptation to be a spiritual couch potato! Easter is more than a 'yay-Jesus' holy-day! It's a reminder that we have been reborn and resurrected to a new life in Christ and empowered for a purpose far greater than eating, sleeping, acquiring, vacationing, and taking up space on this planet. Remember the encouragement of the writer of Hebrews...

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. –Hebrews 12:1-3

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Blessings,

PASTOR SCOTT