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Matthew 20:18-19

“When we get to Jerusalem”, Jesus said, “the Son of Man will be betrayed to the leading priest and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence him to die. Then they will hand him over to the Romans to be mocked, whipped and crucified. But on the third day he will be raised from the dead.”

I’ve always found it amazing that Jesus could sit down with his disciples and so openly share with them what the inevitable end of his ministry on earth would be. How many people could talk about how they knew that their future would include terrible suffering and death? Would you not do anything that you could to avoid this future? Jesus however, speaks of these future events and his commitment to see his mission through the end. Yes, while in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane he asks his Father if there could be another way to accomplish his mission, but even in that moment of great stress, he says, “not my will, but thy will be done”. Jesus was prepared to go the distance. He was ready to accept the suffering and crucifixion because he knew that through this selfless act, the door would be opened to salvation to all who would believe in him as Son, Savior, and Lord of Life. He was committed to the greater good, not his own comfort. Not even his own life here on earth.

Another amazing aspect to this passage of Scripture is how it affects his disciples. At this point in time, Jesus had spent nearly three years of uninterrupted time in teaching God’s truths to his disciples and modeling to them what a holy life of service should look like yet even at this point in time, his disciples just did not get it. They didn’t understand why it was necessary for him to die an

atoning death for their sins and the sins of all human kind. They did not get it that they were supposed to seek after a holy life committed to God and to serve the people most in need of God’s mercy and grace. They were so into the world and the values of the world that even when the events Jesus speaks of here began to unfold they turned and ran rather than support the mission of their Lord the Son of God. The idea of Jesus’ death and resurrection was more than they could comprehend.

In our modern world of today there are an ever increasing number of people who just don’t get it either. They don’t understand how God chose Jesus to live, die, and live again that we might be saved from our own sins. Many people feel if they live a reasonable good life, God will accept them as they are with no requirements of faith and service. Others just choose to deny that God would send anyone to Hell for all eternity. Some just deny that Hell even exists as if that will make it go away. My friend, we all need a Savior. We all have sinned and continue to sin. There most certainly is both a Heaven and a Hell.

Today is a perfect day to seek a life saving relationship with God in Christ Jesus. He died and rose for your sake. Don’t refuse his gift of life.