

JESUS SET HIS FACE LIKE FLINT TOWARDS JERUSALEM

I. [Isaiah 50:4-7](#) [1 Corinthians 11:23-26](#) [Luke 9:51-56](#) [Luke 18:31-34](#)

A. [Isaiah 50:4-7](#) (NASB) was written of Jesus seven centuries before His cross but it instructs us with regard to His heart and His anticipation of suffering. Whenever He pulled out a scroll and read this or heard it read, He knew it was about Him: *4 The Lord God has given Me the tongue of disciples, that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple. (Jesus' divinity walking as a man in humility.) 5 The Lord God has opened My ear; and I was not disobedient nor did I turn back. (Jesus walked in perfect obedience and was a Lamb without spot or blemish.) 6 I gave My back to those who strike Me, and My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting. (This only hints at the pain and humiliation of what they'd do to the Son of God.) 7 For the Lord God helps Me, therefore, I am not disgraced; therefore, I have set My face like flint, and I know that I will not be ashamed. (Even before Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, laid in a Bethlehem manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and given His earthy name, His heart was set like flint to redeem us and adopt us as His own. The Bread & Cup remind us.)*

B. In the coming weeks we will read and hear and be reminded of why Jesus came, what He accomplished, how He accomplished it, and the eternal ramifications of it all. We will wave palm branches, mourn His horrendous death on the cross, and celebrate His victorious resurrection from the dead--all as we should. As we consider the macro dynamics of all this, I hope we won't miss the micro dynamics--the personal implications--that love was the driving force behind Him dying and rising for the likes of you and me. If the Bread & Cup fail to remind us, then we should never partake of them again. And if they do, we should partake of them often. Like Paul's words remind us in [1 Corinthians 11:23-26](#) (ESV) *23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. (In other words we proclaim His death but also His life because He's not returning as a dead man but as the living, breathing, triumphant King of kings and Lord of lords! The Bread & Cup keep us in the moment where history and eternity met.)*

C. Luke tells about a time when Jesus shifted His gaze from teaching and healing north of Samaria in Galilee and Judea, south to Jerusalem. His following was large and growing. It was safer where He was. Intrusion by Jewish leaders and Roman authorities was less likely up north. But the culminating mission would take place in Jerusalem. Even before He left His throne above, His face was set like flint for that city. [Luke 9:51-56](#) (ESV) says: *51 When the days drew near for Him to be taken up, He set His face to go to Jerusalem. (Taken up on the cross? Taken up from the grave? Taken up into heaven to reoccupy His throne!) 52 And He sent messengers ahead of Him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for Him. 53 But the people did not receive Him, because His face was set toward Jerusalem. (Yes, He'll die there--even for the Samaritans! Sadly, they don't know that! Likewise: He's going there to die for your sins! Did you know that?!) 54 And when His disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do You want us to*

tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" **55** But He turned and rebuked them. (*'Guys, I'm headed to Jerusalem to deliver them from everlasting fire and into eternal bliss! So drop the fire talk!'*) **56** And they went on to another village.

D. So does Jesus really know what will eventually happen in Jerusalem? How do we know He's not going there blindly? How do we know He's not naively walking into a trap? And if Jesus truly knows, how do we know He knows? Luke 18:31-34 (ESV) documents the third time Jesus predicts His death: **31 And taking the twelve, He said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. **32** For He will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. **33** And after flogging Him, they will kill Him, and on the third day He will rise." **34** But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said. (Remember our leadoff text, Isaiah 50:6: **6** I gave My back to those who strike Me, and My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting... You can't cover your face with your hands when they're stretched out and nailed to a cross! Jesus was headed to Jerusalem with His eyes wide open. The Bread & Cup remind us...)**

E. A lot will happen between then and Palm Sunday and Passion week. The blind will be made to see; sinners will be forgiven; the dead will be raised; the temple cleared; prophecies fulfilled; Hosannas will be shouted, giving way to crucify Him! Arrests will be made. Trials will be had. Betrayals and denials will come. Jesus' back will be ripped open. His beard will be plucked. His face spat upon. Nails will pierce His hands and feet. He'll be crowned with thorns and viciously mocked. Our sin will be imputed to Him and He will die for those sins. And then He will rise. He will call sinners to be saved and will fill them with His Holy Spirit. Then He'll send them forth with the life-altering News that's better than good! Who but Jesus could accomplish this?! And yes, the Bread & Cup remind us!

* Pray & Serve Communion...

* Revelation 21:1-4 (ESV) tells of a city where our faces should also be set like flint: **1** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. **4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." (Sounds like my kind of City!)

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Isaiah 50:4-7 (NASB)

4 The Lord God has given Me the tongue of disciples, that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple. **5** The Lord God has opened My ear; and I was not disobedient nor did I turn back. **6** I gave My back to those who strike Me, and My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting. **7** For the Lord

God helps Me, therefore, I am not disgraced; therefore, I have set My face like flint, and I know that I will not be ashamed.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (ESV)

23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, **24** and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, “This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.” **25** In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

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Luke 18:31-34 (ESV)

31 And taking the twelve, He said to them, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. **32** For He will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. **33** And after flogging Him, they will kill Him, and on the third day He will rise.” **34** But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.

Revelation 21:1-4 (ESV)

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. **4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Bonus Stuff

"Who But Jesus" - Laura Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bzaXFuZTgt8>

"The Redeemer's Face Set Like Flint" Sermon #2738 by Charles Spurgeon

<https://www.spurgeongems.org/vols46-48/chs2738.pdf>

Pastor/Author James White Confronts the Phoenix City Council

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=CUTAUG1sJQs

Luke 13:31-35 (ESV)

31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to Him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill You." **32** And He said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish My course. **33** Nevertheless, I must go on My way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.' **34** O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! **35** Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see Me until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

Quote by Charles Spurgeon

"O you redeemed ones, on whose behalf this strong resolve was made--you who have been bought by the precious blood of this steadfast, resolute Redeemer--come and think awhile of Him, that your hearts may burn within you and that your faces may be set like flints to live and die for Him who lived and died for you!"

Quote by Oswald Chambers

"Jesus Christ became Incarnate for one purpose, to make a way back to God that man might stand before Him as He was created to do, the friend and lover of God Himself."

Quote by Tim Keller

"We must say to ourselves something like this: 'Well, when Jesus looked down from the cross, He didn't think 'I am giving Myself to you because you are so attractive to Me.' No, He was in agony, and He looked down at us - denying Him, abandoning Him, and betraying Him - and in the greatest act of love in history, He stayed. He said, 'Father, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing.' He loved us, not because we were lovely to Him, but to make us lovely..."

Quote by C.S. Lewis

"We may note in passing that He was never regarded as a mere moral teacher. He did not produce that effect on any of the people who actually met Him. He produced mainly three results-Hatred-Terror-Adoration. There was no trace of people expressing mild admiration."

Sermon Excerpt by John Piper

"I love Jesus Christ, and O, how I want to follow his footsteps on the Calvary road in every part of my life, and bring others with me. But for all that, my heart tells me now that it is a mistake to preach to unbelievers in our worship services and to give regular invitations. One of the most important reasons is this: this pattern builds into the mindset of Christians the idea that *church services* are where people get saved, and preachers are the people who win them to the Lord. I think both of those ideas are wrong and self-

destructive in the long run. Church services are for praising God and for empowering saints to live lives of radical love in the world. If we praise the Lord from our hearts and if we live all for love instead of retaliation or luxury, we will be the most compelling invitations that Christ can give."

- John Piper, from sermon titled, "He Set His Face to Go to Jerusalem," April 4, 1982. To listen to or read the full sermon, go to: <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/he-set-his-face-to-go-to-jerusalem>

Josephus on Jerusalem

"Like a snowy mountain glittering in the sun."

The Talmud on Jerusalem

"Of the ten measures of beauty that God hath bestowed upon the world, nine of these fall to the lot of Jerusalem."

Quote by David K. Shipler

"Jerusalem is a festival and a lamentation. Its song is a sigh across the ages, a delicate, robust, mournful psalm at the great junction of spiritual cultures."

Matthew 23:37 (NET)

37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you! How often I have longed to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you would have none of it!

Psalm 48:1-3 (ESV)

1 Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! His holy mountain, **2** beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King. **3** Within her citadels God has made Himself known as a fortress.

Psalm 122:1-9 (ESV)

1 I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" **2** Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem! **3** Jerusalem--built as a city that is bound firmly together, **4** to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD. **5** There thrones for judgment were set, the thrones of the house of David. **6** Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! "May they be secure who love you! **7** Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!" **8** For my brothers and companions' sake I will say, "Peace be within you!" **9** For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

Psalm 137:1-9 (ESV)

1 By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion. **2** On the willows there we hung up our lyres. **3** For there our captors required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" **4** How shall we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land? **5** If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill! **6** Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy! **7** Remember, O LORD,

against the Edomites the day of Jerusalem, how they said, "Lay it bare, lay it bare, down to its foundations!" **8** O daughter of Babylon, doomed to be destroyed, blessed shall he be who repays you with what you have done to us! **9** Blessed shall he be who takes your little ones and dashes them against the rock!

Hebrews 12:22-24 (ESV)

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, **23** and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, **24** and to Jesus, the Mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Roses Are Red and Oceans Are Blue

By Nicole Marie Bush

Roses are red,
Oceans are blue.
Creation is Your fingerprint,
How can we not worship You?

You trail stars with Your finger tips,
Planets orbit at Your command,
Yet You created us
And hold us in the palm of Your hand.

You are a God of righteousness,
Mighty and worthy to be praised.
Your love has no limit,
My heart is amazed.

You love with an everlasting love
And my love is so weak.
But You make the weak strong,
Able to stand on the highest peak.

You are the Shepherd,
I am a sheep,
You never leave me,
Your love is too deep.

Roses are red,
Oceans are blue.
You love me
And I love You too.