

Intro: A number of years ago there was a fantastic movie called “The Green Mile” The plot of the movie surrounds a man that has miraculous healing powers and uses them to help people. He is an incredibly huge man but has a simple sweet and gentle spirit. In the movie he is falsely convicted of murder, and is sentenced to death. The title is from the walk a death row inmate takes from their cell to the execution chamber. Every step closer to undeserved death.

Today we are going to walk the biblical equivalent of “The Green Mile” with Jesus. We are going to walk with Jesus as He walks toward the Cross. Great book, AT Robertson, Harmony of Gospels, “In the Shadow With Jesus”

Every step of Jesus life journey took him one step closer to the cross, yet he never hesitated, drew back or turned away from the task the Father gave him to do. He lived his life on purpose, accomplishing everything the Father gave him to do! Jesus didn’t die a disappointed man, rejected by those he came to save, but as a successful messenger of life to all those he came to save, and would open their heart to him.

Lk 9:51 is Jesus Green Mile Walk *“When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his fact to go to Jerusalem.”*
Jesus wasn’t walking TO the Cross...He was walking THROUGH the Cross To the resurrection and ascension!

From this point on EVERYTHING changes. He moves from saying, don’t tell anyone who I am and what I have done for you to, Go, tell everyone. Sends messengers ahead to prepare the way. Starting with this passage there are almost 10 chapters in Luke with things that no other gospel covers! Bits

From this point onward, every single step is taken in the Shadow of The Cross. It casts a shadow, it makes a difference, it influences every single action, every single word, every relationship. It’s like what happens when the countdown to execution takes place in our country. Every second of every day has meaning...lasts forever. Last Walk

In some ways we are walking in the Shadow now. The END of Covid is in sight...but we aren’t there yet. There is a lot of ground to cover, a lot of paths to walk, a lot of trial, struggle, pain to overcome...but end is finally out there! We still have Financial challenges, Relational challenges, Challenge of Loss, Health, Jobs...All Hanging over us...

How do we live successfully in the next 6-12 months so that we can get to the other side? Today I want to start
4 Lessons We Learn From Jesus On Successful Living In The Shadow

1. Make Sure You Keep Your Perspective and Focus Right.

Have you ever used a pair of binoculars that has the ability to focus on something up close...or far away? Some have a Switch: If you use one setting what is in the foreground (close) is in focus...and the background fuzzy. If you use the other setting what is in the background is in focus...but everything up close is blurry. Can’t really make it out.

That is what Jesus does in Luke 9:51! He “flips a switch” if you will, and He take the long term view!

- **Taken Up:** Lit = the word for ascending into heaven! It is NOT talking about lifting up on cross. This word is very specifically used to talk about when He ascended into heaven in Acts 1:2

Here is what I want you to understand. Jesus was able to walk without hesitation toward the cross because HE WASN’T looking AT it...His focus was BEYOND it! It’s that perspective/focus issue. WE focus on the pain, the suffering, the struggle the difficulty in front of us...Jesus looked BEYOND it to what God was going to bring out of it!

If you and I were walking toward the cross...THAT IS ALL WE WOULD SEE! And that is how WE tend to live. We look at the struggle, we look at the difficulty, we look at the pain...Focus on that...Consumes us Not Jesus LOOKS BEYOND

- Heb 12:1-2 tells us how to model our life like Jesus! *“Who for the joy set before Him”*
Jesus wasn’t walking TO the cross...He was walking THROUGH the cross to the Resurrection and Ascension!

In Psychological development...one of the Marks of Maturity is: DELAYED GRATIFICATION! When you are able to wait for something good...because you know it’s going to get better...go through tough times to get to victory. MATURE

When you are able to endure the difficulties of the present because you can see the blessings of future...MATURE!

What is happening with Jesus is very similar. Jesus is not looking at the CROSS...all the pain, all the hurt, all the suffering. Jesus is looking BEYOND that...to Resurrection, To Ascension, To all the amazing things that are going to come about BECAUSE of the Cross!
"For the Joy set before Him!"

- What Jesus focused on INSTEAD of the Cross Teaches us How we look beyond our Shadow:
3 Things Jesus Looked Through The Cross To See

~Outcome of The Cross: Jesus looked beyond the cross to the salvation given to all mankind
Luke 15:10 Angels rejoice one sinner

Jesus looked not at the cross but at the salvation that He was providing with His life for all those that would come through the ages to put their faith and trust in Him! In Romans Paul says it this way!

"For just as through the disobedience of the one man (Adam) the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man (Jesus) the many will be made righteous." Rom 5:19

Jesus knew what He was doing...and Why! He looked beyond the Cross to YOUR salvation
~We agree we are sinners and need salvation.

~We believe Jesus is the Son of God that died on the cross for our sin

~We confess our sin to him and Trust Him for Salvation

If you have never trusted Christ for salvation, with everything in me...do that today!

Jesus went to the Cross for you! Died and was raised again "the just for the unjust" to bring you to God!

COME

- Others Blessing fm Cross: Jesus looked beyond His suffering to OUR Blessing
Is 53:1-12 There was so much MORE than Just salvation
2Cor 1:3-7 God comforts us in our Shadow, we comfort others
Lessons we learn, comfort we receive, Strength gives us
- Obedience Of Cross: Jesus CHOSE to do the will of the Father...not grudging obedience!
Luke 22:41 Not my will but thine be done
John 14:28-31 So that the world may know I love the Father

3 Questions To Ask When you Walking In the Shadow

1. What is the Long Term Spiritual and Eternal Outcome from this: What is BEYOND?
2. What are the blessings to Others that God can provide through this: What is He equipping me with?
3. What is the next act of Obedience that I can do to show the WORLD I love the Father? How Can I Shine?

WE all face the Shadow at some time, and in some way.

Loss of a loved one	Loss of Health	Financial	Relational	Job
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CONCL: As we close today I want to challenge you that if you are walking in the Shadow, look beyond!

Look beyond to what Jesus did for YOU...and God's eternal purpose. He may have allowed you there...to draw you close, to teach you something, to prepare you to help others, to Shine His light of Love Through you...as you live for Him.

Don't fall into the trap of focusing on the immediate problem...look beyond to what God is doing...with that in mind...Keep walking!