

Jesus Knew What He Had to Do

John 15:13

As I speak this evening, there are men and women in the armed services that are serving us to the point of dying for this country. They are young, talented, passionate and patriots. They may not have understood fully on the day they enlisted what it was all about, but in just a very short time, they know what is expected of them and they know what they must do. They are heroes to save us all.

“Don’t be a hero!” we say. The men and women who wear the uniform of the US are heroes. They are not heroes because they get medals. They are heroes because they go for us. They do what we cannot do for ourselves. We call them heroes because they go in our place, willingly sacrificing all for a great cause! They know what they must do.

Jesus is our spiritual Hero. He took upon Himself that which we could not do for ourselves. He went to the grave and into Hades so that He could conquer it for us because we are not capable of doing so. Jesus volunteered for a mission before the worlds began that would save the souls of all mankind if they let Him. Jesus knew what He had to do before there was a Garden of Eden!!

Gen. 3:15 *“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”* Jesus knew it was Him that was written of here because He is the Logos/author. So, He knew what He had to do.

It was clear what Jesus had to do as He watched:

When Abel made the first offering in Genesis 4:4 *“and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering,”*

Jesus saw the sacrifice of Abel as appropriate and Jesus rejected Cain’s as inappropriate. Jesus was there and He knew what He had to do – the appropriate sacrifice for all mankind.

It was clear what Jesus had to do as He watched:

Abraham offer Isaac as a sacrifice, and there caught in the sharp clutches of a rugged tree was a ram as a **substitute**... And Jesus knew what He had to do.

It was clear what Jesus had to do as He watched: each time a lamb was offered for the sins of God's people. Jesus knew what He had to do.

It was clear what Jesus had to do as He watched:

When David wrote by inspiration in Psalm 22:1 *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?”* Jesus knew what He had to do.

It was clear what Jesus had to do as He watched:

As Isaiah wrote Isaiah 52:14 *“As many were astonished at you — his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind”* ...and Isaiah continued: *“But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—everyone—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”* Isaiah 53:5-6 And Jesus knew what He had to do.

It was clear what Jesus had to do as He watched:

When the prophet said in Daniel 9:26 *“And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed.”* And Jesus knew what He had to do!

It was clear what Jesus had to do as He watched:

When the prophet said in Zech. 13:6 *“And if one asks him, ‘What are these wounds on your back?’ he will say, ‘The wounds I received in the house of my friends.’”* And Jesus knew what He had to do!

Think of all the events and people that tried to keep Jesus from doing what He knew He had to do.

Satan knew that if Jesus came, he was going to be defeated. So, Satan tried his best to preempt the coming of the Messiah. Satan began in the Garden of Eden by tempting man and woman to sin against God. Satan figured if he could get these two to go against the will of God than he would have a strong presence in the lives of men. After Adam and Eve were thrown out of the Garden, Satan tempted Cain to kill his brother Abel. Satan figured if he could end these boys then the blood line to Jesus would be interrupted. That did not work because Abel's blood would cry out from the ground for redemption. Satan should have known then that he was defeated. But he did not stop. Satan did his best to see to it that Jesus had no lineage.

Satan put fear into the heart of Abram so that he lied about Sarah being his sister in Gen. 13. Consequently, Sarah nearly became part of king's harem. Isaac, too, lied about Rebekah and it nearly happened again!

Satan tried to annihilate God's people in Egypt; then he used idols and desire to get Israel to fall. Then came Assyrian captivity followed by Babylonian captivity. The nation of Israel was decimated but a remnant survived.

I've often wondered how Satan felt during God's silent period following the prophet Malachi. Did Satan think he had caused God to fall silent and give up? Did Satan believe that he had won the war against almighty God?

Then came the birth of a child to a virgin. The child was named Jesus and was called the Messiah. Satan may have savored those three hundred years of silence – but now God has spoken in a thunderous way. The Christ has been born and is now on earth to fulfil the will of God in the redemption of man's sins.

Satan knew it was an uphill battle, but he did not give up. He got into Herod's mind and got him to kill Hebrews born in Bethlehem 2 yrs. and under...Jesus was born, God in the flesh, knowing what He had to do...

Jesus knew it in the temple at 12 when He said to His parents in Luke 2:49 ***“Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house”*** When John the Baptist introduced Him as the Lamb of God at His baptism. Jesus knew what He had to do!

Jesus was reminded of what He had to do when Satan tempted Him in the wilderness, tried to get Him to hand over His right to the earth...It was on His mind when He said in John 12:24 ***“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”*** Jesus knew what He had to do!

What He had to do was on His mind with each healing miracle He performed, every parable He told...

What He had to do was on His mind in Matthew 16:21 ***“From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”***

And later in Galilee in Matthew 17:22-23 ***“As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, 23 and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.” And they were greatly distressed.”***

And again in Matthew 20:17-19 ***“And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.”*** But the disciples didn't understand and didn't want to ask...Jesus knew what He had to do!

He understood all along what even those closest to Him didn't put together until after His resurrection! He carried that cross for 33 years with no help from anyone else!

Do we know what we must do? Are we willing to sacrifice it all for the cause of Jesus? We know why God left us here. We know what our part is. Our role is clear. We must maintain constant focus on what God wants us to do...to lay our lives on the line for Him as well.