

## Living Resolutely

*“As the time approached for Him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus **resolutely** set out for Jerusalem. And He sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for Him; but the people there did not welcome Him, because He was heading for Jerusalem.” Luke 9:51-53*

Sometimes you run across a word you don't hear much, but has such deep meaning. That happened when I came across this Scripture. The word, “resolutely” stopped me cold. After reading the definition, I realized how critical this word should be in living out our lives and determining what is truly important. It screams, “stay focused.” In case you're wondering what resolute means, it's being admirably purposeful, determined, and unwavering. Powerful words.

You have to look at Jesus to understand what living resolutely means. In the Scripture above, Jesus knew His time was getting close before He would return to heaven, fulfilling the reason why He was sent to earth. So He purposefully, and with determination set out for Jerusalem, the place the Lord was sending Him. He was unwavering in getting there.

Even though Jewish people always went around Samaria when they traveled (they had a firm dislike for Samaritans and wouldn't go near them), Jesus sent His messengers into a Samaritan village to get things for Him. He didn't care about traditions, discriminatory ideology, or what people thought. The most direct route to Jerusalem was through Samaria, and Jesus was focused on the goal ahead of Him.

Jesus lived His entire life resolutely. He had one purpose and everything He did and said reflected that purpose. No matter the temptations, the circumstances or the trials, Jesus remained resolute to accomplish what the Father had given Him to do. His life also described the qualities of His relationship with the Father: purposeful, determined, and unwavering.

We make things so complicated trying to discover what our purpose is. It's really simple: to love God with all our hearts, our minds, our souls, our strength and to love each other as we love ourselves. If we resolutely followed those two commands every day, in everything we do whether at home, at work, or in our communities, our lives would change for the better.

The Savior knew that He was going to heaven, and that affected His entire journey through life: the choices He made day by day, His relationships, and how He spent his time and his money.

He was on mission. He had a job to complete, and a purpose to fulfill—the completion of our redemption. His ascent into heaven was our guarantee that there was a place for the faithful sons and daughters of God. He swung open the doors wide so that we can all enter in.

Are you resolute in your purpose, unwavering to the mission you've been given? How much our lives would change if we lived with the same purpose and acted it out in every aspect of our lives. How often do we give up, waver or act double minded? How often do we lose our determination or forget what our purpose truly is? Look to Jesus who gave us His life as an example. Resolutely follow Him. He was faithful, loyal, steadfast, and firm. We should be no less.

## **Prayer**

Jesus,

Your Word says that He who pursues righteousness and loyalty finds life, righteousness and honor. I pursue You, my righteousness. Through You I find the strength to be admirably purposeful, determined, and unwavering in my pursuit of loyalty to You. May everything I do and the words that speak bring the honor that You so richly deserve. Yahweh, You are my God, the faithful God who keeps His gracious covenant loyalty for a thousand generations with those who love You and keep Your commands.

Who will separate me from the Messiah's love? Can trouble, distress, persecution, hunger, nakedness, danger, or a violent death do this? As it is written, "For Your sake we are being put to death all day long. We are thought of as sheep headed for slaughter." In all these things I am triumphantly victorious due to the One who loves me. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor anything above, nor anything below, nor anything else in all creation can separate me from the love of God that is mine in union with You, my Messiah Jesus, my Lord. Your love, mercy, and grace are admirably purposeful, determined, and unwavering towards me. Therefore, I will lift up Your name. Jesus, I will raise a hallelujah for You are worthy to be praised! AMEN!