



Set Your Face Like Flint

Luke 9:51; Isaiah 50:7; Hebrews 12:2 (ESV)

There are times in life when we know what lies ahead and if we're honest, part of us would rather take another path.

Luke gives us a glimpse into such a moment in the life of Jesus:

“When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9:51)

That simple phrase, “set his face”, carries a quiet but powerful meaning. It speaks of resolve. Of settling something deep within. Of choosing a direction and not turning away from it. Jesus knew what awaited Him in Jerusalem. This was not just another stop along the way. It was the place of suffering, rejection, and ultimately the cross.

And yet, He went.

Isaiah had described this long before:

“I have set my face like a flint...” (Isaiah 50:7)

Flint is hard, unyielding stone. To set your face like flint is to quietly, firmly determine: I will go forward. I will not turn back. That is what we see in Jesus; not a harsh determination, but a settled obedience. He wasn't rushed. He wasn't pressured. He was resolved. And perhaps what is most comforting is this: Jesus wasn't caught off guard by suffering. He walked toward it, trusting His Father every step of the way.

A Word for Days Like Ours

It doesn't take much to feel that our world is unsettled right now. There is a lot of conflict, uncertainty, division and it has a way of finding its way into our hearts. At times, it can leave

us feeling distracted, uneasy, or even a bit weary. But when we look at Jesus in Luke 9:51, we see something steady and calming. He moved forward, not because everything around Him was peaceful, but because His heart was anchored in His Father's will and that's an encouragement for us.

We don't have to have everything figured out. We don't have to carry the weight of the world. But we are invited to live with a kind of quiet steadiness, fixing our hearts on Christ even when things around us feel uncertain.

Looking Beyond the Moment

Hebrews gives us another piece of this picture:

“Who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross...” (Hebrews 12:2)

Jesus was able to endure because He could see beyond the immediate pain. He saw the joy ahead, the completion of His work, the glory of the Father, the redemption of His people. He looked through the cross, not just at it and in a similar way, we are gently called to lift our eyes as well.

The Christian life often looks like small, daily steps of faithfulness. The apostle Paul puts it this way:

“Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on...” (Philippians 3:13–14)

Not perfectly. Not without struggle, but steadily. So maybe today is not about huge decisions, but simple ones:

- Choosing to trust when things feel uncertain
- Staying faithful in what God has placed before you
- Turning your attention back to Christ when your heart feels pulled in many directions

Setting your face like flint may simply mean: “Lord, by Your grace, I will keep walking with You today.” And the good news is this, the One who set His face toward Jerusalem has finished His work. He now reigns, and He walks with you as you take each step forward.

Prayer

Lord, In the midst of all that feels uncertain, help me to rest in You. Thank You that Jesus did not turn away, but walked faithfully in obedience to accomplish my salvation. Give me a steady heart—not anxious, not distracted—but gently fixed on

Christ. Help me to take the next step of faithfulness You've set before me today. By Your grace, keep me walking with You.

Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Terry B.