

# SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 23.03.25

PREACHER: PS ANDY MAC

SET YOUR FACE

## BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

*BEING [HEART], THINKING [MIND] & DOING [BODY]*

*[A PERSONAL REFLECTION]*

**Conviction of a Disciple:** As we journey in our growth into Christlikeness, we become more humble and teachable, following Jesus' example and allowing our hearts to be transformed by the Holy Spirit.

### OVERVIEW

God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble (James 4:6). As His disciples, we are called to surrender our pride, asking the Lord to search our hearts and convict and teach us, and clothing ourselves in humility so that we can continue to become more like Christ.

### ACTION

**Step 1:** Reflect: As humans, we all succumb to the temptation of pride, whether we realise it or not. Where are you harbouring pride in your heart?

**Step 2:** Commit: To have teachable hearts, we have to offer up all areas of our lives to God. Are there any areas in your life that you are keeping hidden from Him?

**Step 3:** Act: This week, ask the Lord to search your heart and highlight the areas where you lack humility. Listen for His prompting, pray for a teachable spirit, and begin building the habit of surrendering your pride to him.

# THOUGHT

**SCRIPTURE:** LUKE 9:51-56; 2 KINGS 1

*"Keep your eyes on the prize!"*

When you're competing in a race, you have to focus on the end goal. Just the thought of that prize will keep you going when your body is exhausted, everything hurts, and you desperately want to give up. For Jesus, the prize was the cross. In Luke 9, on a journey to Jerusalem, Jesus encounters unwelcoming people. His disciples were outraged, but Jesus remained focused. He had His eyes fixed on where He was heading. The scriptures say that he "set his face" on Jerusalem. He wasn't distracted. He was resolute. He was determined.

Picture this: It's a Saturday morning and you (and the rest of Brisbane) are driving up the coast. There are five lanes of traffic, things are moving fast, and you can't devote all your time to watching your GPS. The next thing you know, you've just taken the wrong exit. You're watching the highway in your review mirror become further and further away as you loop off in the opposite direction to where you should be going.

Just like on the road to the beach, there are distractions constantly vying for our attention on the road to Christlikeness. When we take our eyes off Jesus, the one who guides us through life, we can get caught in the wrong lane, distracted by the things of the world, and veer off course away from Christ. As disciples of Christ, we are called to fix our eyes on Him, the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

*The question is: Where is your face set towards?*

When we set our faces towards Jesus, fix our eyes on Him, and are determined to become like Him, the distractions of the world grow dim and fade away.

*But, what do we do when we run into someone who disagrees with us, rejects our views, or refuses to accept the gospel?*

In Biblical times, people lived in a culture of vengeance: an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. In modern times, we live in a culture of canceling: stonewalling and silencing those who dare to disagree with us. But, Jesus rarely condones culture.

Instead, He calls us to be determined. He does not call us to bulldoze or trample. He teaches us to approach all relationships—those with people who are for us *and* against us—with humility (2 Kings 1). While pride causes pitfalls in our hearts, humility takes us further along the journey of becoming like Jesus. When our vision is tainted by pride, we can't follow the example of Jesus because, as CS Lewis explains, we can no longer see Him: "A proud man is always looking down on things and people, but, of course, while you are looking down you cannot see the things above you".

Would our feet be set on moving with determination, our hearts be set on responding from a place of humility, and our faces be set on Jesus, our eyes locked on the King.

# DISCUSSION

[A GROUP REFLECTION]

1. What are some of the goals you have set for yourself in life? What is your ultimate goal, the one at the top of your list? What is the prize that you are set on—is it Jesus, or something else?
2. Which promises, setbacks or counteroffers of the world grab your attention and cause a detour in your discipleship journey? What can you do to keep your eyes on Jesus when distractions fight for your attention?
3. In Luke 9, When Jesus and his disciples encounter people who reject them, Jesus is unphased but the disciples are outraged. How do you respond when you encounter people who disagree with you or refuse to accept the gospel? Instead of overriding, arguing, or bulldozing, what could it look like to respond in a Christlike way?
4. Is pride interfering with your ability to love others and love Jesus? God is gracious towards people who show humility, but despises those who are ruled by pride (James 4:6). How can you lay down your pride and cultivate a heart of humility?

# PRAYER

Lord,

Thank you that you had such resolve to go through all types of opposition and rejection knowing that on the other side of it, we would be free. Father, we choose to be changed and transformed by you. Would you search our hearts, highlight our pride, and humble us to become more like you?

Please help us to keep our eyes fixed on you, even when the distractions of the world vie for our attention. Would everything else grow dim as we set our face on you, our sovereign Lord and beautiful Saviour.

Amen.