

“Jesus the Lionhearted”
February 19, 2012

The purpose of all that has been poured upon us in Christ (*grace, gift ministries*) is “to prepare (us) for works of service...built up (together)...(united) in faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God...become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12,13). “Then...we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head—Christ” (v. 14,15).

PROP- One dynamic of Jesus’ personality is His BOLD TENACITY. There is nothing passive or indifferent about Him. He is HIGHLY INTENTIONAL and FIERCELY PURPOSEFUL.

1. Clear IDENTITY & DESTINY

- Said about Him: “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.” (1 John 3:8)
- Said by Him: “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work” (John 4:34)
- SEE Ephesians 1:3-10 (The Father “purposed in Christ”)
- Jesus embraced the purpose: “The time has come! (AT LAST!) The Kingdom of God is near! Repent and believe the good news!” (Mk. 1:15)
- “Follow Me”—“I’m going somewhere...and I can take you there!”

2. TENACITY born of INTIMACY

- He “set His face” toward the wilderness—because He knew He was a “Son”
 - a. Jesus saw Himself as the Father sees Him (*and the devil himself couldn’t lure Him from that place*)
 - b. “It is written”—more than “*I know stuff*”—He was declaring, “I know the One who calls me who I am.”
 - c. THEN...He “set His face toward Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51)
- Common phrase: “Jesus, knowing...”
 - John 13:3- “...that the Father had given all things into His hands (under His power); that He had come from God and was returning to God”→ washed His disciples’ feet
 - John 18:4- “...all that was about to happen to Him”→ presented Himself to those who had come to arrest Him
 - John 19:28- “...all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled”→ said, “I thirst” and “It is finished (*telios*)!”

3. IN HIS ELEMENT

- **On His first day of public ministry—in His hometown—He told the people He had come to heal all (Jew or Gentile). “All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way” (Luke 4:28-30)**
- **Jesus healed a man with a withered hand—right in the synagogue. Enraged, the Pharisees plotted to kill Him. Jesus’ response? “Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. Many followed him, and he healed all their sick” (Matthew 12:15)**
- **(John 2:13-17 The Message)- Cleansing the temple: a planned and sustained aggression [NOTE: The Lamb drove out the Passover lambs!]**
- **(Matthew 8:23-33)- Jesus rebukes (*same word as rebuking demons*) wind and waves; immediately boat is at the other shore; greeted by 2 demonized men—whom Jesus delivers—casting demons into pigs**
- **(John 11:14,15)- Jesus’ delayed response to news about Lazarus was “intentional” (KJV)—“that you may believe”. Later, at the tomb, Jesus is “deeply moved in spirit and troubled” (Lit.- to “snort in anger, like a warhorse”) as He commands Lazarus to life!**
- **When told: “Herod wants to kill you,” Jesus replied: “Go tell that fox, ‘I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach My goal!” (Luke 13:31-32)**
- **This same Jesus had the “authority” to “lay down” His own life—and “take it up again” (John 10:18)!**
- **This same Jesus walked into the horrors of hell itself—making a “public spectacle of” His demonic enemies (Colossians 2:15)—and then simply turning and walking back out again—leading a train of rescued captives with Him (Ephesians 4:8)!**

RESPONSE

**This same tenacious, Jesus the Lionhearted lives in you (Galatians 2:20)!
He “is our life” (Colossians 3:4)!**

- 1. Our intimacy with Him is what intimidates the enemy! [NOTE: “Know” and “believe” are about trusting Someone—not just knowing something] [NOTE: Greatest opposition came to those “with Christ” (Acts 5)]**
- 2. We were made to magnify Him. [NOTE: Everyone magnifies something] “Magnify” means to examine closely, know intimately, and declare boldly.**
- 3. It’s time to say “Yes!” to Him (not “Yes, but...?!”) Can’t allow “What if?” to keep us from trusting the One “WHO IS”! [NOTE: Let our “Yes” be “Yes” (James 5:12). “No, Lord” (Matthew 16:22) is an oxymoron]**