

Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death - Palm Sunday Crowds

Isaiah 50:4-9a; John 12:12-43

It's _____ to underutilize the skills, talents, resources, and abilities we have been given by _____. Why? It's easier to be an underachiever than an overachiever. It's easier to go with the flow of the world than _____.

It is far more _____ to look at our lives and admit, "I was made for more." I was in the car, thinking about Palm Sunday and the song "Made for More" came on the radio. It had to be the theme. A few days ago, God _____ the idea. I was in the car again and snapped a picture and video!

On Palm Sunday the crowds _____ Jesus as their new King. The Pharisees _____ he might become a King over them. The disciples _____ Jesus will be King over them and has a plan to defeat the opposition.

But they are expecting a very specific kind of King and Jesus knows he was "made for more." He's there for:

- More than _____ and adoring crowds...for _____ who will "hate[s] his life in this world..."
- More than an _____ throne...a _____ one.
- More than a _____ position...one over spiritual and _____ matters.
- More than just the expectations of _____...the _____ of God his Father.
- More than a _____ crown...a _____ crown over a permanent kingdom.
- More than just the _____...he wants to get to the _____ cause.
- More than just a _____ victory...a spiritual, metaphysical, eternal victory over _____, Satan and death!
- More than _____ and fortune...he desires the priceless treasures that are his _____.

You and I were made for more as well. Those that have it all tell us and show us that it's not _____. They were made for more than fame, fortune, and all the trappings of it.

C.S. Lewis talks about it this way, "*If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for _____ world.*" We were made for:

- More than that raise/promotion/new car or house/"that person" to _____ us/great looks/awards/
- More than this _____...but for _____.
- More than earthly _____...but heavenly _____.
- More than the company of and approval of _____...but to dwell in _____'s presence with his.
- More than to serve an earthly _____...but a heavenly _____.
- More than a LORD to bless _____ will and plans for our life...but One that will help us do _____.
- More than the praise of the _____...the praise of the _____!

Surely, you have felt it too. Surely you've wondered, "*Is this it?*"

Our friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers were made for more too. God wants to use us to _____ them. Jesus wasn't _____ by temptations to take the easy way out. He was focused on the cross to save us.

Today, God is asking us if we will _____ on the many people we know that he loves as much as he loves us. Will we _____ his mission and foster relationships for Christ's Kingdom no matter how hard it may be? Will we _____ the cheering crowds and other distractions? Will we remember what's really at stake?

What distractions are keeping you from the life of mission God has called you to?

How is God calling you to sharpen your focus on HIS will and HIS mission?

What are you going to DO about it?