

Passion Sunday.

Subject: --- Command Decision

Text { Matt 26:17-19
Mark 14:32-34

Passion Sunday, as you know, is the Sunday before Palm Sunday. In these texts Jesus tells of his passion, which in this case means his suffering. PASSION Sunday commemorates Jesus' decision to go up to Jerusalem - where he knew that he would suffer and be killed - rather than escape just as a teacher & other parts of the world.

This was a "Command" decision - a decision from higher up - from the highest level of authority - a Commander is above every one else in authority, an order given by him is known as a "Command decision".

According to this the decision to go up to Jerusalem and thus to death was not of Jesus own making - It was a decision from his Commander God. It was the will of God. He seemed to know this to be God's will - at any time, after he decided to go up, after he did up on Palm Sunday, and when he was in the Garden, he brings the thought of the Command decision out in clear relief when he said "If it be possible let this cup pass but not my will but Thine (Highest authority) be done".

(2)
The journey to Jerusalem was far more dramatic than one would think just by reading the account.

- a. He was going into the heart quarters of those who hated Him.
- b. He was not deceived by the good treatment He received along the way.
- c. We see here courage to 10th degree. — He knew the Command decision well enough that He had won out over His inner fears. When we win over our inner fears the battle is about over.

This Command does not mean that God got pleasure out of His Son's death.
Just as a general suffers when he gives the order to charge knowing that some of his men will die, even so God suffered on that occasion.

No doubt the words of the psalmist
"yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death... I will fear no evil for thou art with me" — ran often through Jesus' mind.

It seems that up to the trial of Jesus His apostles, when He spoke of dying, thought He was still speaking in parables. Jesus seeing that in them must have had added to His pain as He led them into a tragic situation which they had not realized was coming.

"For thou art with me" — we can all say this if we have dedicated our

wills to him - BUT, remember the devil is always present too - He did not turn Jesus loose for good and there in the wilderness -

at this period is the life of Jesus when He was about to go through with the act that would start the world on the road of salvation you may be assured that the devil whispered in His ear some thing like this;

1. why go to certain death?
 2. all around Him were souls hungering for the bread of life, would you die and prevent them getting that?
 3. the work to be wrought (done) by the gospel had just begun - why leave this to men so hard to learn?
 4. why die now and leave the work in its infancy?
 5. why not run away to hungry millions in the world - to regions where their present enemies can't find you?
- all such sounded good but in the last of all the world would have been lost, just another teacher and no empty grave.

the one law of His life was His Father's will - He believed that it was God's plan to give Him and altho it grieved the heart of God to do it Jesus knew that it was His death as a lost world - He knew that God had loved the world

that He gave Jesus ⁴ that those believing
might share life - the thing that made
him conquer his murderers was his
faith that it was God's will to set up
the plan of salvation which could
not be set up without the death of
a member of the God-head, and
faith that He would rise from the
dead.

David died - and became an outlaw
Jesus faced death and became our Saviour

we have the same supreme com-
mander as Jesus did - but the
similarity ends there for we are not
like David - we live (or think we do)
from God -

Happiness cannot be found in trying
to get away from our difficulties and rough
places but in ever coming thru

although the command decision is
made in heaven it is to be carried
out on earth - whatever God's
will is - SEEK to know His will in
all of our every day situations.

we must not rebel against His
will when we find it

we must rejoice that we have the
knowledge of doing His will -

This great Commander gives orders
in accordance with His will to all
of us -

Let us all answer Him and
sing:

"From ease and pleasure save us,
From pride of place absolute,
Purge us of low desire
Lift us to high resolve
Take us and make us holy
Teach us Thy will and way
Speak and ~~behold~~ we answer
Command, and we obey -

