



St. Matthew's Cathedral eNews

Christ + Compassion + Community

From the Dean

The Results of Obedience

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.—John 12:21

In the book of Acts, when St. Paul made plans to go to Jerusalem, people tried to dissuade him from going. A prophecy was given that he would be bound and persecuted.

Eugene Peterson's rendition St. Paul's response (Acts 21:13) reads as follows:

But Paul wouldn't budge: "Why all this hysteria? Why do you insist on making a scene and making it even harder for me? You're looking at this backwards. The issue in Jerusalem is not what they do to me, whether arrest or murder, but what the Master Jesus does through my obedience. Can't you see that?"

When conflict and difficulties come our way, so often we focus on our inconvenience, our discomfort, and our suffering rather than what will be the results of our obedience.

Prisoners of war in Japan often found worms boiled with their rice rations. Though at first they refused to eat them, they soon realized that the worms could provide nourishment to help them survive. The worms became the meat ration. In fact, some of the men picked them out of the rice and set them aside to be enjoyed separately.

Obedience in the face of difficulty is like that. For Jesus, his obedience glorified God. The way of suffering was the way of redemption for us. Later in this passage in John, Jesus said that when he would be lifted up he would draw all people to himself.

Thank God for the obedience of Jesus. *His* obedience made possible our salvation. Next time you are tempted, look beyond your own personal discomfort and see what your obedience might accomplish in the lives of those around you.

As you finish up these Lenten days with its fasting, hang on, and find God's grace and glory for you in Lenten obedience.