



I want to share with you my sermon from last Sunday's 8:15am worship. Soon it will be Palm Sunday and Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. There was even more excitement that day than there was a week ago at the Sports Arena as HCC became National Champions. But I want us to think about the fact that Jesus knew what the future held for him. Even with the hype and excitement of his entry into Jerusalem and the adulation of the vast crowd, he knew it wouldn't last, he knew his time had come. I don't know if you ever think about how cool it would be to know the future. Growing up I often wanted to know what the future held for me. I know I often wished that I knew what was round the corner or if I had known the outcome, I would not have made those choices. If only we knew, then things would have been different. I am not sure that is actually true, I always wanted to do things my way so I probably would have still made the same stupid mistakes.

One of the many things that amaze me about Jesus is that he never took the easy options. Jesus knew what lay ahead. Luke 18:31-34 ³¹ *Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. ³² He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. ³³ On the third day he will rise again."*

³⁴ *The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.* While he warned his followers, he was also emphasizing his own awareness of the horrible price his gift of love would cost him personally. Yet he did this for you and me. He did it knowingly. He did it sacrificially; he deliberately held back his own power to stop what was going to happen to him. The Cross that awaited him, the mockery that lay in waiting, and the ugliness that would be heaped upon him by those who hated him was known and accepted ... even to a certain extent, embraced. Why? Because a ransom had to be paid and sin had to be atoned. By his

wounds, the very wounds he was anticipating, we were healed. I have asked myself if I had known what lay ahead, would I have went to Jerusalem? It didn't take me long to answer that question, I would have been going in the opposite direction, as fast as I could! Let's be totally honest, wouldn't you have done the same? You see for us it is all about self preservation, the importance of me and that is just human nature. But to Jesus the Son of God it was all about sacrifice, it was about mankind's salvation at his expense. Jesus knew the cost and he knew that we where worth it. Really? I ask my self was I really worth it? Every time I question that, the answer from God is the same **"YES OF COURSE YOU ARE WORTH IT!"**

Easter is the most important celebration in the church and for Christians. We are celebrating our rescue. We celebrated the heroic efforts of our fire fighters and first responders a few weeks ago as they rescue people, homes and property from the wildfires. We acknowledge and praise these heroes and rightly so. But how sad that we have forgotten how to celebrate our true hero, Jesus. His rescue mission took him on a journey of pain, suffering and death on a cross. When others thought that it was over, the greatest ending to a story came on Easter morning when the tomb was empty and Jesus had defeated sin and death by rising from the dead.

At 7pm on Friday at FPC, Jesse Roberts will take us on a musical and visual presentation of Jesus' journey to the cross. I hope you will take time to come along and reflect on Jesus sacrifice. I also hope you will make it a priority to be in worship on Easter Morning to celebrate Jesus' victory over sin and death. Remember he knew what lay before him, he knew that you and I where worth it. But He also knew that we would not fully appreciate what He did for us. You know what I mean, I get so caught up in my own personal life that I forget God at times. I make him a convenient crutch to lean on and yet knowing all this He followed through on his end of the plan. What does it mean to you that Jesus knew all that he'd suffer and went through it anyway? It makes me thankful that he feels that much love for me!

So make this Easter a time to recommit your life to God or perhaps ask him into to your life for the first time and discover a new purpose to life as you take this journey with God.

