

Courageous Love
Act.4:8-12; 23-30
3-13-2016

Act 4:27 for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

Jesus was and still is the Son of God. He came from heaven with a mission of salvation. Scripture doesn't tell us how Jesus knew what His mission was but we understand that He did. We don't know if God the Father revealed to Jesus his plans for him in great detail or in minimal but we do know He knew. We don't know at what age He grasped the import of His mission but we do know that at 12 He had great understanding and a need to be about His Father's business.

My point is this, Jesus knew the end of His journey (his death) and He still moved forward. Jesus could have accomplished everything the Law and Prophets declared for Him to do and done them all mechanically, detached and uncaring but He didn't. Jesus loved us too. It was not just a God the Father thing. (Jn.3:16) Truth is Jesus' mission would have been a failure had He not loved even if He fulfilled every demand of the law. No greater love

than for a person to lay down their life for another. (Jn.15:13)

Jesus could not have succeeded in His mission without being genuine in His love towards humanity. The second of the two most important commandments required loving neighbors as themselves. (Mk.12:29-31) Jesus demonstrated something fundamental and profound for all of His disciples to emulate in His relentless journey to the cross: love must be real.

Like Jesus and His purposeful mission each and every one of us also has been called into the Kingdom of God for a purposeful mission. And like Jesus our Teacher and Master, we too must be genuine and authentic in our love towards our neighbor. (Rm.12:9; 2Cor.6:3-18; 8:7-9)

"Let love be genuine" So says God thru the pen of Paul. "Let love be unhyprocritical" (literal Grk.) This is one of the greatest challenge of discipleship to Jesus: loving as HE loved. Lord help us to be more like you everyday? (See 1Cor.13:1-13 for description of love)

A popular phrase these days says to love the sinner not the sin. There is truth here but how do we apply that without enabling the sinner in their sin? There is the proverbial rub, the rock and the hard place but You too have a mission of love. Go, and let your love be genuine. Be real, be courageous, fulfill your calling, love as you have been loved.