

***“The Shocking Decision to Move
Toward Suffering”***

A silhouette of a person carrying a cross on their back, walking up a hill against a sunset sky. The cross is made of two wooden beams. The person is walking towards the right, and the cross is positioned behind their back, resting on their shoulders. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, with some clouds. The person's shadow is cast on the ground in front of them.

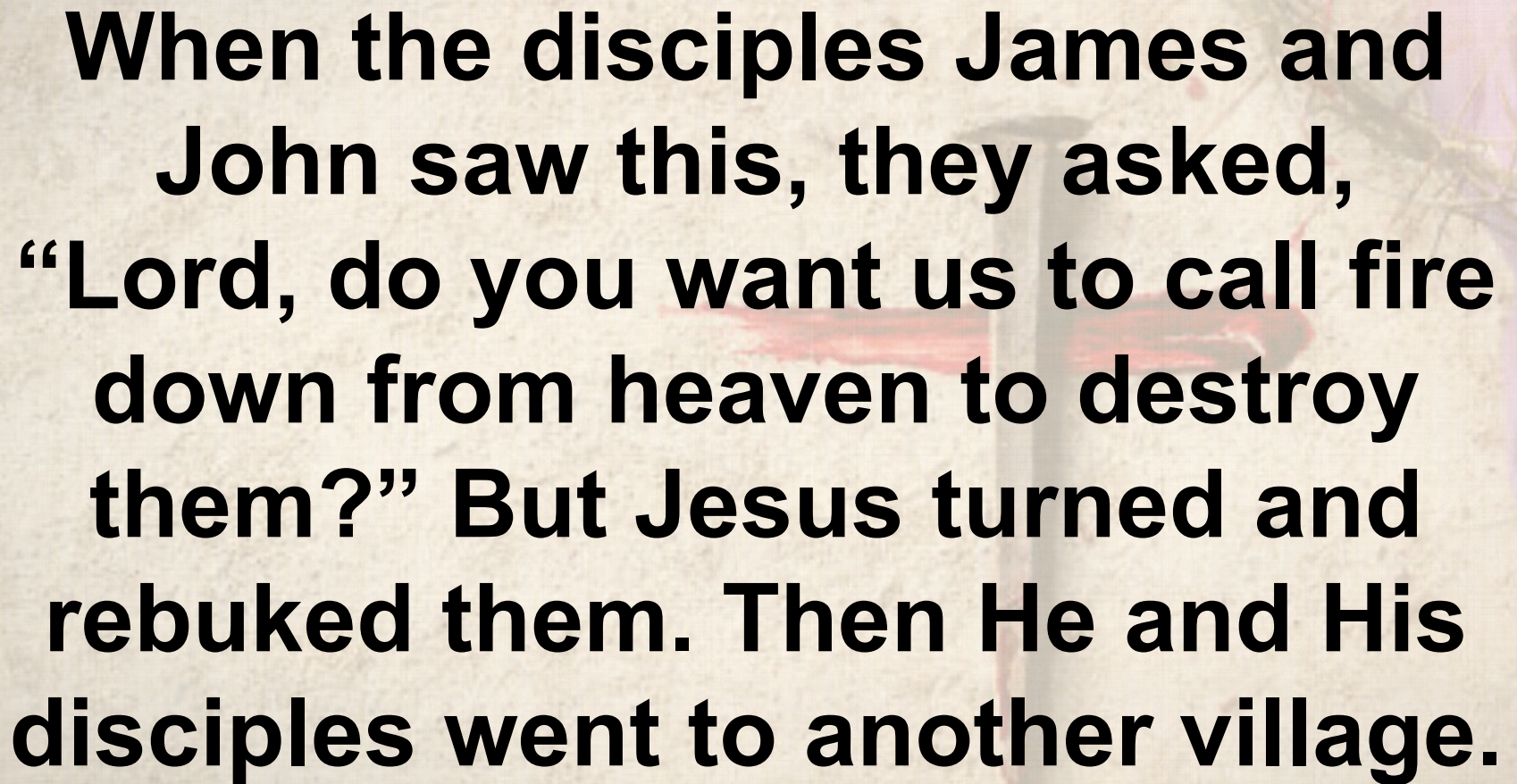
Sunday March 26, 2023

Pastor Don Hiscox

The Journey:

Luke 9:51-56

As the time approached for Him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. And He sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for Him; but the people there did not welcome Him, because He was heading for Jerusalem.

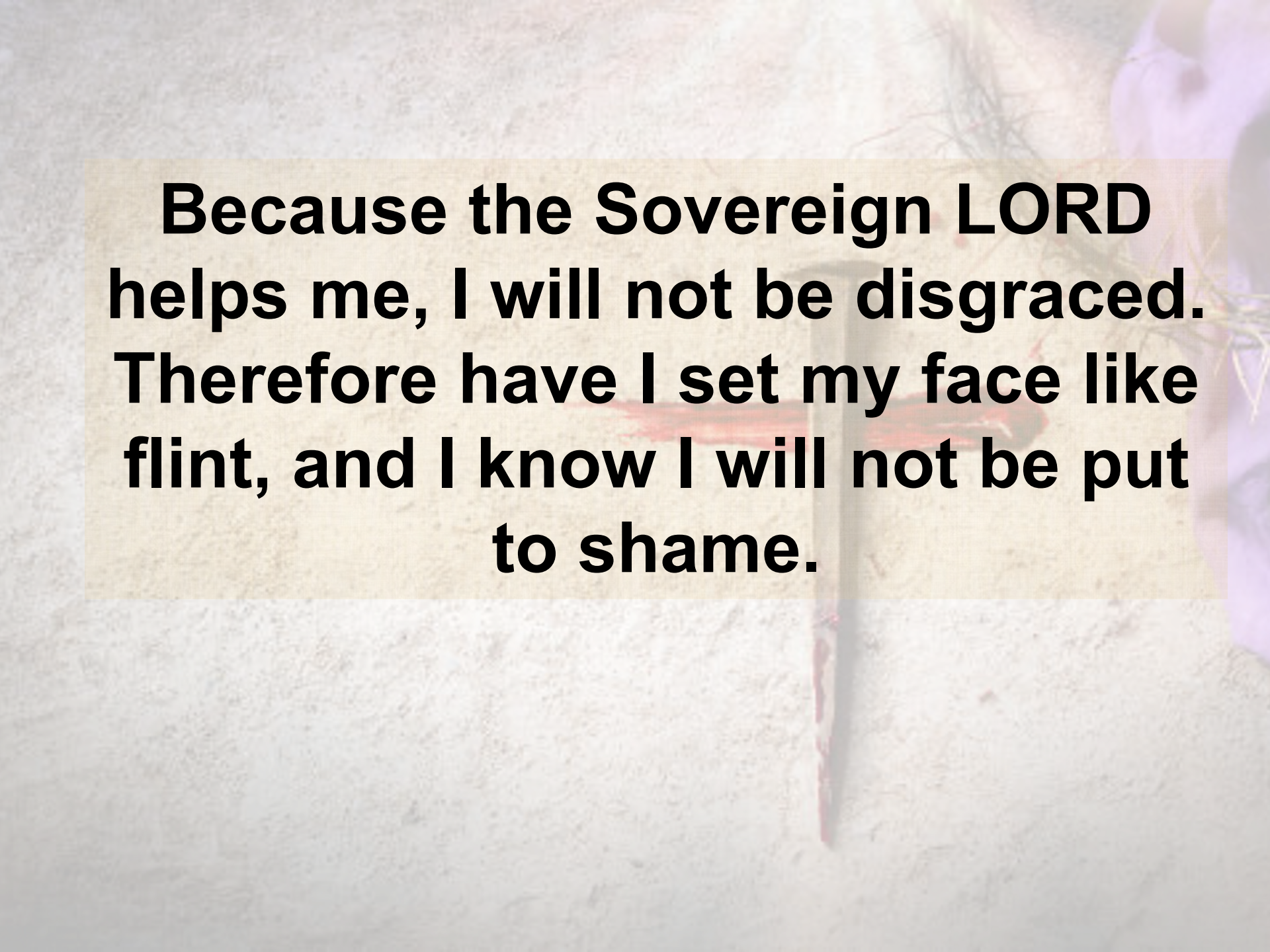
A person in a white shirt is holding a bundle of hay. In the foreground, there is a wooden post. The background is a light-colored wall.

When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?” But Jesus turned and rebuked them. Then He and His disciples went to another village.

The Destination & The Why:

Isaiah 50:6-9

I offered My back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.

A person in a white shirt is holding a bundle of sticks or branches. In the foreground, a wooden staff or pole is visible, partially obscuring the person. The background is a light, textured surface.

**Because the Sovereign LORD
helps me, I will not be disgraced.
Therefore have I set my face like
flint, and I know I will not be put
to shame.**

He who vindicates me is near.

**Who then will bring charges
against me? Let us face each
other! Who is my accuser?**

**It is the Sovereign LORD who
helps me. Who will condemn me?**

**They will all wear out like a
garment; the moths will eat them
up.**

”Why changes human behavior. Few of us like to sign up for pain. But every day, millions of people head to the gym, jump on a bike, or go for a run and endure stiffness, soreness, and the occasional injury because the *why* motivated them to act.”

~Carey Nieuwhof

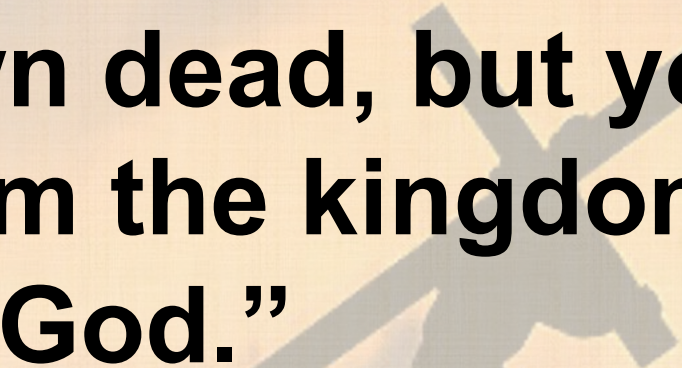
Our Response:

Luke 9:57-62

As they were walking along the road, a man said to Him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”

Jesus replied, Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.

He said to another man, “Follow me.” But he replied, ‘Lord, first let me go and bury my father.’ Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

A faint, light-colored silhouette of a person carrying a cross is visible in the background, positioned behind the text. The person is walking towards the right, and the cross is held high. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with a light sky and a dark ground line at the bottom.

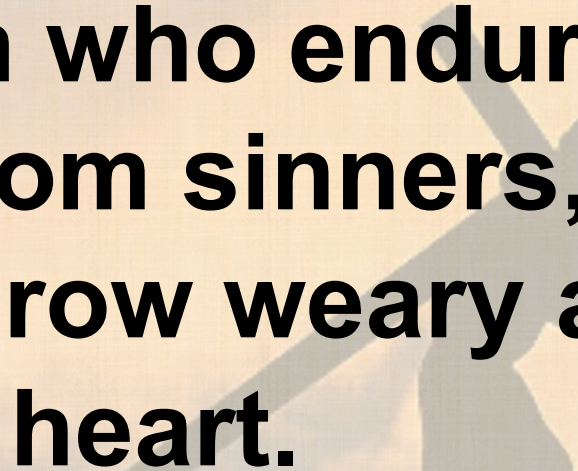
Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.”

Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

A faint, semi-transparent background image of a person carrying a cross on a hill. The person is seen from behind, walking up a slope. The cross is a simple wooden structure. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with a light sky and a dark ground.

A wooden cross stands on a hill against a sunset sky. The cross is made of weathered wood and has a white cloth draped over its top. The background shows a hazy landscape with trees and hills under a warm, orange and yellow sky. A semi-transparent yellow rectangular box is overlaid on the upper half of the image, containing the text.

Total confidence in God leads to total commitment to God and enables us to be resolute in service for God.