

Good morning, Church. Daily Reading, Luke 9.

Some years ago, my friend Mark found out he had stage 4 pancreatic cancer that had spread to many other organs. He asked if he was going to die, and the answer was "Yes." I will never forget that day and thinking what it would be like to know your days on earth would be few.

Death is not a topic many like to talk about, and yet, death is something we will all face.

This week is called "Passion Week." It deals with the last few days Jesus would spend on earth, before His death, burial and resurrection. Jesus knew all along what He was facing as He made His way to Jerusalem. But why is it called "Passion" when the things we are usually passionate about are things we are interested in or gravitate towards. Was Jesus all that passionate about going to the cross and the humiliation and suffering He would endure? "The word 'passion' often refers to a stronger emotion, usually connected to romantic or sexual desires, but also to a strong gravitation towards something (e.g., when you are passionate about something). (D. Yoon)

Different authors point out our word "passion" comes from a Greek word meaning, "to suffer or endure."

Acts 1:3 "To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:" (KJV)

The word "passion" in the KJV is stated as "suffering" or "His death" in many other translations. While there are those who claim the meaning of "Passion Week," comes from His passion, that Jesus willingly went to the cross, I might think it was more His love and mercy toward mankind that led to this week and not a desire to suffer.

Today is "Holy Monday." After riding into Jerusalem on "Palm Sunday, " Jesus would return, cleanse the temple, and remind the crowds that God's House is a place of prayer, not crooked commerce. From start to finish, Jesus was about His Father's business.