

DAY 19

Courage Fuels Resilience

When the days were coming to a close for him to be taken up, he determined to journey to Jerusalem [literally, *stiffened his face to journey*].

Luke 9:51

Leadership Affirmation

I lean into my leadership responsibilities regardless of circumstances, setting, or how I may be received by others.

On this trip toward Jerusalem and His imminent death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus' courage and resultant resilience were on full display. Resilience is the ability to withstand challenges and recover quickly from difficulties. It's the capacity to persevere through trials and stay true to the mission.

At this point in their journey with Jesus, His disciples don't yet have courage. False bravado? Yes. Courage and resilience? No. James and John said they were able to drink Jesus' cup. Peter promised he would never deny Jesus. You can have bravado when you're not under stress, but everything changes when you enter the Garden of Gethsemane and stand in the court of judgment. When it really mattered, each one fled.

When we lack resilience, we struggle in the face of stress and adversity. We are easily overwhelmed. Our lives are marked by avoidance and outright cowardice. We run. We hide. We develop a negative outlook. We become "Spiritual Eeyores," moping along in life like the fictional Winnie the Pooh character.

Then we look at Jesus! Jesus was singularly focused on achieving the most brutal task in human history. He set His face like flint and stepped courageously forward. There was no adversity He wouldn't plow through. There was no obstacle He wouldn't overcome. And there was no barrier that would hold Him back.

Though the disciples failed that initial resiliency test, Jesus was not finished with them. Within a few months, Peter and John were threatened for preaching about Jesus. They continued proclaiming the gospel. James, who had made his false brag, became obedient to death and helped fuel the advance of the Gospel.

True resilience is not about "toughing it out." It is grounded in the spiritual attribute of courage that comes from a daily submission to the Holy Spirit. Don't stop pursuing your God-given roles and dreams!

Prayer for Protection

Father, when satan whispers that no faithful child of God should face opposition. I flee to You and find refuge.