

DAY 20

Perseverance Yields Diligence

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 4:15

Leadership Affirmation

I fulfill my leadership responsibilities with excellence, even when no one is watching.

The Mark 10 teachable moment led into Jesus' bold declaration of His substitutionary atonement: *For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many* (Mark 10:45). The key words in this verse flow directly out of Isaiah 53: *to serve; to give; his life; a ransom; for; the many.*^{xviii}

Jesus set the standard for serving. He provides motivation for service. But He did more. Jesus did what we cannot do for ourselves (purchased our redemption) in order that, in Him, we can do what we otherwise would not want to do (serve selflessly).

I don't think we fully appreciate how difficult a task Jesus accomplished for us. Hebrews 4:15 lifts up the perfect sinlessness of Jesus. There is no trial, no testing, no temptation we face that Jesus did not also experience. Jesus grew tired. Jesus took needed breaks. We see Jesus broken and grieved. We see Jesus suffer.

Jesus was tempted in every way we are tempted, so He can fully sympathize with *our* weaknesses. Yet, He did not sin. As the sinless One, He was able to pay the full penalty we, as unrighteous, deserved (1 Peter 3:18).

The attribute of perseverance yields unrelenting diligence. Diligence is the spiritual discipline to get up every day and do what's necessary to fulfill your mission. Leaders who lack diligence have inconsistent preparation. They neglect their responsibilities, procrastinate, have poor follow-through, and are disorganized. They are rarely prepared for unexpected situations.

But we never see Jesus stop even once in His singular pursuit to give His life as a ransom for many. Jesus got up every day and stepped into the mission that brought Him to earth, never once shrinking back, even when agonizing in prayer. He never quit. He never hit the pause button. He never faltered. He literally gave His all!

Prayer for Protection

Dear Jesus, I reject the false pride that tempts me to offer less than my best in my service for you.