

# Finishing Well

In the light of Solomon's failure, we ask a question: how do we end well?

Jesus finished His life in victory; let's look at Him and pattern our lives after Him.

When Jesus was tired from the demands of people-oriented ministry, He got up early and prayed (Mark 1:21-37).

When Jesus faced major decisions, He stayed up late and prayed (Luke 6:12-16).

When Jesus faced opposition, He spoke truth with love and ferocity (Luke 7:36-50).

When Jesus faced the temptation to use a woman, He instead cared for her soul (Luke 10:38-42 and John 12:1-8; John 8:1-11).

When Jesus faced the insecurities and failures of His own disciples, He didn't baby them, but He did point them to the Spirit and Truth (John 14,15).

When Jesus faced hypocrisy, He called it out in honest confrontation, fearlessly challenging those in power and clearly stating consequences (Matthew 23:13-33).

When Jesus faced trickery, He set His mind on listening to the Spirit for the perfect answer (Luke 20:20-26).

When Jesus faced challenges, He "set His face like flint" and followed through to the end (Isaiah 50:7, John 11:7,8,16, Philippians 2:5-11).

When Jesus faced pain, He cried out to His Father, and kept moving forward in obedience, even until His death (Matthew 26:36-46).

When He faced betrayal, He forgave (John 20:19-23, Luke 23:34).

When Jesus faced the cross, He chose to honor His Father and their plan of salvation and take the pain (Matthew 27:46; Luke 22:42-44; 23:46).

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith, and walk in His steps, diligently and fearlessly obeying God our Abba. The Holy Spirit longs to do this in us, rooting us in God's affection, encouraging us in our obedience, and praising with us as we finish our race.

I dream for you as I dream for me, that at the end of our lives, we can join with Jesus, valiantly breathing, "It is finished!" or with Paul proclaim, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." Friend, may this be the story of your finish line! Amen.