



Devotion Part 1

Unprecedented Love for Unprecedented Times

by Rev Jonathan Stark

“Would you like some toilet paper?” asked the young neighbour who had just pressed the doorbell. “We have enough and thought you might need some.”

A little kindness speaks volumes. Moments of unexpected love in times like these stay with us forever. But to be completely honest, it’s not easy to show unprecedented love. When there’s a crisis, it’s easier to stop caring for others because our own needs aren’t being met.

Like U.S. man Matt Colvin, who bought 18,000 bottles of hand sanitiser from stores across the state of Tennessee, we tend towards wanting what is best for us even if causes others to suffer. When Colvin then tried to sell the bottles at inflated prices, he experienced a huge backlash from the public and he had second thoughts. He decided to give the bottles away to a church to distribute instead. It took Colvin a while, but he got there eventually! It’s hard to love in unprecedented times.

But Jesus did. He demonstrated breathtaking love in the most hostile of times. He chose to love. He wasn’t tricked into dying, nor was he forced into it. He chose the cross. Though it would mean pain, humiliation and complete separation from God, Jesus chose the cross. There is nothing that demonstrates God’s love more powerfully than the cross. His love was unprecedented.

As Easter approaches we have an unprecedented opportunity to show unprecedented love to those around us. How was it that Jesus didn’t let all of the obstacles to the cross stop him from showing love? What kept him going? One possible answer to this question is found in Luke 9:51, where we learn that, “Jesus resolutely set his face towards Jerusalem.”

It seems that he made a decision to love and was determined to keep to going in the direction of Jerusalem where he would be crucified.

Have you made a decision to turn your face towards others in this unprecedented time with unprecedented love? Yes, there are challenges. And yes, it's hard. But let's choose to love like Jesus. He chose to love. Talk to your family and friends about your resolution.

And as we head towards Easter, let's commit to finding unexpected ways to show unprecedented love in these unprecedented times.

God Bless,

Jonathan