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Devotion for February 23rd, 2022

John 7:32-53

If you're like me, when you read the passage assigned for today you probably couldn't help but think ahead to the season of Lent that is about to begin. A time in which we will see men sent to arrest Jesus who actually follow through with their directive and bring Him to be tried and crucified. What an interesting testament it is though, that the men in today's Scripture, who were sent by the Pharisees to arrest Jesus, came away from the situation in awe?

Their bosses were some seriously influential men and still the officers came back unsuccessful. And not only did they return empty-handed, but when questioned they said, "No one ever spoke like this man!" Through this one interaction they were able to see the power and majesty of Jesus. They knew their bosses hated Him and had every intention of discrediting His teaching, among other nefarious plans. And yet they still spoke up in reverence.

We live in a different world today, especially in our country. I don't think many people would bat an eye at you making a statement like "Jesus was an amazing teacher." Sure, you might get some eye rolls, or even confused glances depending on the setting. But it's not very likely you'd be in physical danger or at risk of losing your job by sharing your awe and respect of Jesus.

And yet because we are so protected we take for granted that we can freely witness. Now not to diminish the witness do we give through our actions, but how often do we miss opportunities to speak plainly about our Savior? I know I let them slide right past me all too often. I encourage you to look for those opportunities, they may come about more often than you realize.

And thanks be to God that nothing we do here can affect our salvation, for if it did surely none of us would be able to secure a place in heaven. We are so blessed to have a Savior who sacrificed Himself, defeated death and the devil, and rose again so that we will not be subjected to that punishment of hell but brought home to Him forever. Amen.

*God's blessings,
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