

April 8, 2024

Meditation

Eclipse

A rare occurrence is happening on April 8 — a total solar eclipse. Individuals, businesses, towns, and schools have been preparing for this incredible event for months, and even years, in some cases. Individuals have rented out their pastures and fields to travelers who desire the best view of the eclipse. Towns and police departments have prepared for accidents, heavy traffic, and “darkness chasers.” Schools fear being responsible for students going blind because of staring at the eclipse without special glasses. Early childhood teachers are dreading how students will act in such a unique moment.

What are things you spend months or years preparing for? Do these things come with a sense of excitement, dread, or fear?

Jesus prepared His disciples for His death and resurrection for three years. However, they didn't fully understand until after He rose what it all meant. Maybe they didn't understand because it wasn't time yet. Maybe they didn't understand because they weren't paying close enough attention. Maybe they needed time to be strengthened in their faith to really get the scope of what was to come, and how it was to be resolved.

Have you spent years in preparation to share the love of Jesus? Have you studied God's Word in order to share your faith? Even in our preparedness to share the Gospel there may be some suffering along the way, just like so many Christians before us.

But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil (1 Peter 3:14–17).

We are to be prepared to give an answer for the reason for our hope with gentleness and respect. We cannot forget God has entrusted us with the Gospel for a reason. God's preparation in our lives has not been in vain. He can be trusted. He will use the struggle, the faith, the knowledge, and the wisdom He has graciously given us for His purpose to reach others with the Gospel in His amazing timing. Just like we prepare for a once in a lifetime worldly event, let us prepare even more diligently for eternal events.

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Written by Kayla Winkler

*Published by Lutheran Women's Missionary League Texas District
Christian Life Committee, 2024*