

MAKE YOUR MARK

WEEK FOUR :
FINISH

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THE SETUP

Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead and upon His entry into Jerusalem many people gathered and sang with praise, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel." (John 12:13 NIV) The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified. Within the week, however, the Jewish leaders had crucified Jesus and the disciples had scattered.

To many, Jesus failed to complete His life's passion. But as we will discuss in this last part of *Make Your Mark*, what Jesus endured for mankind is the greatest definition of passion. Jesus is the ultimate finisher. He defeated sin's claim on humanity and made the greatest mark this world will ever know. When we study His obedience to God's plan and willingness to align His will to God's, we have the best example possible of **what it really takes to finish making our mark.**

THOUGHT STARTER

When was the last time you finished something you felt extremely proud of?

Think about the passions you have discussed during this series. Describe what the finish line looks like? What does it feel like?

What would your church (and the worldwide church) look like if everyone were as committed as you are?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Read Matthew 26:36-46 and John 19:16-30

Jesus was human, but He was also God. In the garden at Gethsemane, Jesus knew it was up to Him to do what no other man could do in order to finish what man started in the garden of Eden.

As you read through these verses, what stands out about what Jesus did?

fin•ish \fi-nish\
From Latin *finire*. To bring to completion. To defeat or ruin utterly and finally.

What in Matthew 26:36-46 and John 19:16-30 can you apply to your own attempts to finish strong? Focus on the following areas:

- Your emotions
- Your responsibilities
- Your determination

Read Hebrews 12:1-3

In chapter 12, the author of Hebrews transitions from a dialogue about the Old Testament “Heroes of Faith” to a challenge to the new believers in Jesus. The author invites them to accept what Jesus has done for them and use His life, death and resurrection as the foundation for everything in their life. One of the first areas the writer focuses on is the need to strip away anything that will keep us from getting in the race.

Think about the passion(s) you have identified within this study. What are some areas of your life, unhealthy habits or other obstacles that may hinder you from pursuing and realizing your passions?

This first verse also differentiates between hindrances and sins. What is the difference? What sins can easily entangle us from finishing strong?

When it comes to pursuing your passion, how would you “throw off” your hindrances and sins? Where is God involved in the process?

Read Hebrews 12:2 Again

What does it mean to fix your eyes on Jesus? Is it easy? Why or why not?

What was the “joy set before Jesus” that allowed Him to endure the cross? What is the joy set before you as you move ahead in your passion? Should your joy change?

Read Hebrews 12:3 Again

Jesus constantly focused on His purpose above His potential. Jesus had unimaginable potential. He could have done many things to quiet His opposition and avoid the anguish. Instead we see Jesus go through inhumane suffering in order to fully complete God’s purpose for Him.

Where does this verse challenge you as you pursue your passion?

APPLY IT

What mark did Jesus make on the world through His death and resurrection?

What mark did Jesus make on you?

What will you take from Jesus' death and resurrection and apply to the passion God is calling you to in your life?

EXPLORE IT FURTHER

Welcome to the end of the message series and the beginning of what you choose to do next. What kind of mark will you make? What will keep you from filing this opportunity away and doing nothing?

We challenge you to set aside four separate hours over the next two weeks to review both the audio messages and your notes again. In your review, use the following questions as a guide:

- What passion really speaks to you?
- What next steps are you going to take?
- How will you fix your eyes on Jesus and His work at the cross to help you endure?

Leading people to pursue life in Jesus as their greatest passion.
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