

# A FACE LIKE A FLINT

JEREMY WALKER



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*What people are saying about this book:*

The brevity of this work betrays its significance. Rarely have I been so challenged and encouraged by a single book. It is demanding and convicting, and yet instructive and hopeful. Like a compass, it turns the reader back to the heart of true discipleship. Initially, it deserves multiple readings, and then, it should be read once a year to help the believer maintain the course.

*Paul Washer, Founder and Missions Director  
of HeartCry Missionary Society*

This is a great little book that is much needed at the present time, written by a real man of God for whom I have huge respect. It considers the Lord Jesus Christ as he sets out on his way to Jerusalem to accomplish our salvation. The Lord Jesus of the Bible, the one to whom this book points us, is what a real man should be: clear-eyed with unflinching determination, conviction, self-discipline and courage. But he is not cold or stoic. To quote Jeremy, “Christ had a face like flint because he had a heart on fire.” I recommend this book enthusiastically and pray that we will have the same flint-like determination to seek God, make our salvation sure, put sin to death, increase in holiness, be godly husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, children, church members, and to carry out whatever we have been called to carry out for the kingdom.

*Alun Ebenezer, Headmaster of Fulham Boys School, author*

Jeremy Walker has provided us with a valuable treasure in this new book, *A Face Like a Flint*. Writing with an engaging pen, he does a masterful job of describing for us the unflinching resolve of the Lord Jesus Christ as He headed to the cross. This same firm determination is so desperately needed in our lives today. In a day when many believers are lacking depth of convictions, this book will put a backbone of steel into followers of Christ as we walk in His steps. Be ready to be challenged by what you read and compelled to live with the same unwavering fortitude as did our Lord.

*Steven J. Lawson, President, OnePassion Ministries*

In a culture where casual Christianity dominates so much of evangelicalism, a prophetic voice is needed to call true believers to a holy determination to follow Jesus. Jeremy Walker in this book is that voice. *A Face Like A Flint* powerfully points us to the redeeming work of Jesus and his unchanging word as the key for every Christian to channel this righteous tenacity. Written with a clarity, wit, and precision that mark all of Walker's books, you will be inspired and convicted to pursue Christ, cling to his word, and hold fast until the end with a renewed resolve. I commend this book and the faithful man who wrote it.

*Brian Croft, senior pastor of Auburndale Baptist Church,  
founder of Practical Shepherding, and Senior Fellow of the Church  
Revitalization Center, SBTS*

Thomas Watson wrote: “Zeal does not say, ‘There is a lion in the way’. Zeal will charge through an army of dangers, it will march in the face of death.” Jeremy Walker’s book is a clarion call for that kind of zeal. Looking to our Redeemer as our Example, and the Scripture as our authority, he aims an arrow at the heart of a casual and complacent generation of Christians, and his aim is true. His book reads like a sermon. It really is “logic on fire”. It is passionate, pointed, practical and pastoral. If we hear and heed his words, we shall be better, and more useful, servants of our God. I, for one, shall be praying for a wide and receptive readership for this much needed book.

*Carl Muller, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Burlington, Ontario*

The Apostle John recorded, “The one who says he abides in [Christ] ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.” *A Face Like A Flint* shows Jesus as worthy to be worshipped as well as imitated. Walker’s care and concern for both Christ’s glory and people is evident as he reveals a clear path for the Christian life.

*Anthony Mathenia, pastor of Christ Church, Radford, Virginia*



*Dedication*

To those quiet and unknown saints, some of them friends of mine, who serve our God with a face like a flint.





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## A FACE LIKE A FLINT

Have you ever been righteously surprised, even scared, by a righteous man? Have you been shaken by his righteousness? The disciples of Christ knew what it was to have such an experience.

Has your fiercely holy disposition, your commitment to a righteous cause, ever troubled anyone else? Have you ever righteously surprised or scared someone? The Lord Jesus did. He did it as he went up to Jerusalem to lay down his life on the cross, as Mark records:

Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: 'Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.' (Mark 10:32–34)

The spirit that broke the surface of Christ's life on that occasion can be seen again in a similar setting earlier in his life. Luke records it in

the ninth chapter of his Gospel: 'Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem' (Luke 9:51—the parallel to Mark 10 is in Luke 18:31-34). There is something here of the disposition of which the prophet Isaiah spoke, when he spoke the words of God's Servant:

The Lord God has opened My ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away. I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting. For the Lord God will help Me; therefore I will not be disgraced; therefore I have set My face like a flint, and I know that I will not be ashamed. (Isaiah 50:5-7)

Here, God's Messiah, in the face of many sufferings, set his face like a flint. This, says Matthew Henry, was a disposition of 'unshaken constancy and undaunted resolution; he did not fail nor was discouraged.'<sup>1</sup> Can you not imagine something of that look in the eye of the Lord Jesus when he cleansed the temple on various occasions? Can you not see it in his face as he throws mobs of liars and cheats out of his Father's house? Do you remember him standing in the building with a whip of cords, daring anyone to set back up what he had just torn down? His was a spirit of holy determination and righteous defiance and unashamed holiness. The God-man not only draws out our deepest love; he demands our utmost respect.

Now, in Mark 10, Christ and his disciples are on the road to Jerusalem. It is a long and steep climb up to the city. The Lord sets a fast pace, walking ahead alone. He outstrips his disciples. The

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 1176.

language suggests unusual energy and protracted activity. He both sets out and goes on rapidly. When the disciples look into his face they see a man with a certain expression, a certain look in his eye, a certain vigour in his actions. It is a portrait of a man not to be messed about with. This is certainly the message received by the Twelve, and perhaps by others. They were amazed. The words can mean that they were astonished, frightened, even terrified. They and perhaps the crowd were struck with fear to the point of hesitation about following him. Perhaps some were even tempted to run away. They are deeply troubled. Jerusalem is the centre of the storm and they can see the clouds gathering and hear the ominous rumble of thunder. Opposition to and resentment against Jesus of Nazareth has been flowing from Jerusalem. The Lord Christ is now marching toward the city, striding into the heart of the storm, with an unsettling intensity, a frightening determination, a zealous eagerness. They do not know how to handle this. Christ has already made it very clear to the disciples that wherever and to whatever the Master goes, his disciples must follow: 'Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it' (Mark 8:34–35 ff.). There is a sense in which they can see what is coming, and they are fearful as their Master cuts a path into the heart of the battle.

Perhaps taking note of all this, the Lord Jesus uses an interlude in the journey to spell out to the Twelve what lies ahead. It is a graphic and unflinching portrait of the betrayal, indignity and suffering to death that he must undergo, with the glorious vindication that will follow at his resurrection.:

Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the

scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.

We must leave aside for a moment the immediate aftermath of this teaching. There the disciples display a quite staggering inability or unwillingness to grasp the Master's spirit and enter into his example. Our focus is on that spirit and example. We will concentrate on the convictions, character and conduct of Christ Jesus our Lord at this point, as an encouragement to us and a pattern for us. If there is a rebuke to us, we must take that too, and learn again what it means to follow Christ. We must look to Christ with his face like a flint as he marches up to Jerusalem.



## THE LORD JESUS FIXED HIS EYE ON HIS GOAL

The development of our Lord's self-awareness as Messiah is a deep river to sound. There are hints at the speed and the substance of that development as early as Luke's record of his appearance as a boy in the temple, when he asked his worried earthly parents, 'Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?' (Luke 2:49). It is characteristic of the Lord. As soon as he becomes aware of who he is, there is a constraint upon him: he has come to do his Father's will. Certainly this more than suggests a close to full-fledged grasp on his identity as the Son of God and the Son of Man. It also hints at the activity bound up in that identity. Later in life he is entirely aware of who he is, where he is going, and why he is going there: 'For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a