

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

I used to have a sign in my former office. It read, “God put me on earth to accomplish a certain number of things. Right now, I am so far behind, I will never die.” Well, how would you feel if the greatest task you had in life was to die?

Well, today is Ash Wednesday, the season of the church year that reminds us that this was exactly the mission that Jesus carried all of his life.

John 10:9-11 I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. ¹¹ “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

A little over 2000 years ago, night fell abruptly, and harshly on Jesus’ day. Jesus was confronted with the most horrific item on His “To-Do list.” It wasn’t that He procrastinated, putting it off until last like we’re prone to do. He left it for last, because it was the final, and most important item on the list. The miracles, the teaching, the mentoring were all important responsibilities. But if it hadn’t been for His sacrificial death on that gruesome cross, we’d all be lost.

He could have fulfilled every other responsibility given to Him by the Father in Heaven during His time on earth. But if He had simply been taken up to heaven as Enoch and Elijah before Him, and not died in our place, taking our sin upon Himself on that cross, He would have failed in what the Father asked Him to do.

Jesus understood how precious each moment was and used them to their fullest. Don’t squander His hard earned gift of salvation. Receive it by faith today.