**Lent Devotionals – Day 9**

Fasting Challenge: Breakfast

Scripture Reading: Luke 9:51-56

Prayer Emphasis: Mercy & God’s Kingdom

Devotional Thought: The more we journey with Jesus, the more aware we become of our own false thinking and misconceptions. Daily these false ideas are exposed in the light of His holiness, and our eyes are then able to better understand God’s kingdom. We are not the first to misunderstand Jesus and His kingdom and most certainly won’t be the last. Despite first-hand access to Jesus and His teachings, the disciples still struggled to grasp the love and mercy infused nature of the kingdom Jesus came to inaugurate.

 Jews of the First Century expected the Messiah to come and destroy Israel’s enemies ushering in an age where they would flourish politically, socially, economically, and religiously. Because of the Roman oppression of the time, Jews were specifically looking to the Messiah for military and political power and force. Jesus’ own disciples had these expectations of Jesus, which made His comments about His own death so ludicrous to them. They thought He came with the power to destroy the yoke of their enemies, and they were right; however, the enemies He came to destroy were not the Greeks and Romans, but evil and death themselves. Jesus’ disciples want Jesus to use His power to bring down fire against their enemies (Luke 9:54-55), but Jesus’ power was meant to be channeled for people not against them. Jesus himself says, “The Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.” (Luke 9:56)

 Have you ever misunderstood Jesus’ mission? Have you ever had a misplaced thought about how Jesus is working or seemingly not working in your life? Take a moment and ask Jesus to expose these misplaced ideas and ask Him to replace these ideas with clarity and understanding, so you can fully grasp His mission and His kingdom in your own life.