

Fr. Gerry Hurley
Fifth Sunday of Lent

What a powerful expression of Jesus in today's Gospel: "I am troubled now. Yet, what should I say? Father save me from this hour? But, it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name."

It is so comforting to read those words -- to try and take in the whole experience of Jesus being troubled and anxious. Much of our experience regarding "The Hero" is that He is never afraid, never anxious. We know that is merely a Hollywood notion. Real heroes are the ones who experience the full range of emotions and still press on to achieve their purpose. Jesus was resolute in the attainment of His Purpose. We are invited to have the same resolve and purpose in our lives.

Our 40 Days of study and reflection, "What On Earth Am I Here For?" has been a wonderful challenge for me, and I hope for you, also. In Chapter 10, Rick Warren says, "The Heart of Worship is Surrender." He says, "Surrender is an unpopular word, disliked almost as much as the word submission. It implies losing, and no one wants to be a loser."

Jesus was no loser. He was the greatest man that ever walked. He defeated every challenge, not by conquering but by surrender. He overcame every enemy by surrender -- the final enemy, death. This is the paradox of the Gospel:

The last will be first.

The first will be last.

The one who surrenders gets the spoils!

A man visiting in Ireland was traveling from Cork, and he became a little confused and took the wrong road. When he realized his predicament, he stopped his car and asked a passing stranger, "Can you help me? I am lost."

"Where are you going?" the stranger asked. "Going to Dublin." the man replied. To which the stranger responded, "Then you are not lost. You know where you're going. All you need is directions!"

Hopefully, we know our Purpose now, after all of our study and reflection. Perhaps we just need directions!