

Mark 10:32-34
Foreboding Predictions

³² (A) And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and (B) Jesus was walking ahead of them. And (C) they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, ³³ saying, “See, (D) we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will (E) condemn him to death and (E) deliver him over to the Gentiles. ³⁴ And they will (G) mock him and (H) spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And (I) after three days he will rise.”

Over the past year we have been following the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ as presented in the Gospel of Mark. Last week we saw again one of his great acts of power: he was the vanquisher of demons: he delivered that boy who had been for several years terribly oppressed by a demon.

Now in Mark 9:30-32 he talks to his disciples for the second time about his coming death and resurrection. It says in ver. 32: ³² (A) *But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.*

In fact, Jesus had even told them on an earlier occasion that he would be rejected by the religious leaders of their nation and be killed and then after 3 days rise again.

Now here in Mark 10:32-34 Jesus repeats for the third time his prediction to them of what was going to happen to him:

³² (A) **And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and (B) Jesus was walking ahead of them. And (C) they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, ³³ saying, “See, (D) we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will (E) condemn him to death and (E) deliver him over to the Gentiles. ³⁴ And they will (G) mock him and (H) spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And (I) after three days he will rise.”**

This is the 3rd time Jesus makes this prophecy. Is Jesus a true prophet of God or not? Did his prophecy come true? We will look at this today, but let us now pray:

Prayer:

Gracious God our Father, you know all things. You know the beginning and the end and all things in between. You are the Lord of our times and the days and years of our lives. You were the Lord of the days and times and events in the ministry of your Son, Jesus Christ of Nazareth. You directed his paths and orchestrated the events around his life. You are the Lord of history and of each person's life and you were especially the Lord of your Son Jesus' life and death when you sent him to live among us. Open up your Word and teach us this day. Send your Spirit to magnify your Word and magnify your Son, we pray in his holy name. Amen.

Three times, on three occasions, in Mark 8, 9, and 10 Jesus talks to his disciples in private and he tells them what is going to happen to him, what awaits him as they make the journey to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast, one of the three yearly feasts of the Jews. In that feast each household would take a lamb into their home and then slaughter it after two weeks. The blood of the lamb would be offered to cover the sins of the family for another year.

But you remember what John the Baptist said about Jesus? “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” Only the blood of the Son of God could actually take away, atone for, pay for the sins of his people. The blood of the Passover lambs were a foreshadowing, a prophecy of the shedding of the blood of the true Lamb of God, the Son of God, whose blood would truly and actually remove the guilt and punishment that the people of God deserved for their sins.

I. Jesus predicted his coming suffering, death and resurrection three times to his disciples

Three times in Mark’s Gospel Jesus makes this prediction to his disciples about his coming death and resurrection. And what is so interesting is that in the other two synoptic gospels, Matthew and Luke, Jesus does the same thing. He talks to his disciples and he tells them on three different occasions about his coming death and resurrection.

Three times in each of these three gospels. And Jesus’ predictions of his coming death were not absent neither in John’s gospel. So what we want to consider today is the significance of these three predictions that Jesus made to his disciples – they were foreboding predictions. What does foreboding mean? The dictionary defines it like this: fearful apprehension; a feeling that something bad will happen. We might have a sentence like this: In the middle of the day, the sky was growing very dark - a foreboding prediction that a thunderstorm was about to break out.

Jesus’ predictions here were certainly foreboding, at least all of them, but the last one. Let’s consider, first of all..

I. What did Jesus predict was going to happen to him?

Mark 10:32-34

³² ¶ And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and ¶ Jesus was walking ahead of them. And ¶ they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, ³³ saying, “See, ¶ we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will ¶ condemn him to death and ¶ deliver him over to the Gentiles. ³⁴ And they will ¶ mock him and ¶ spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And ¶ after three days he will rise.”

What we see here is 7 foreboding predictions, but finally at the end there is a wonderful, triumphant prediction that really wipes out the foreboding predictions. Death is overruled by life. Crucifixion is overcome by resurrection. Humiliation is replaced with glorification. This is what happens when God comes on the scene. It’s what happens when he

comes into our lives. Where there was condemnation for our sins, we find justification instead. Punishment for our sins is replaced by forgiveness of our sins. An eternity of separation from God is replaced by an eternity in the presence of Jesus. When God comes on the scene everything changes.

The regenerating work of the Holy Spirit overpowers the wickedness of our sinful hearts and brings the life of God into our hearts and lives. When the Spirit of God draws us to Christ a new day dawns in our hearts – an everlasting day that never ends. The night of sin is ended. The light of Jesus shines instead and drives away the sin. “Sin, be gone! Jesus is now here. He is my Lord and my God. Hallelujah!”

But these disciples were not at this point in their lives yet. They were still ignorant and still learning and Jesus was patiently teaching them. He’s patient with us also.

So Jesus makes this mostly foreboding prediction to his disciples. The next question we need to ask is, 2. Did these things actually happen to him?

Let’s turn to the last three chapters, just in mark’s Gospel, and see if Jesus’ predictions came true:

- 1) the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes
cf. Mk. 14:53 - ⁵³ And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together.
- 2) they will condemn him to death -
Mk. 14:55 ⁵⁵ Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none....
Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” ⁶² And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” ⁶³ And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need? ⁶⁴ You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?” And they all condemned him as deserving death.
- 3) deliver him over to the Gentiles.
Mk. 15:1
And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate.
- 4) they will mock him
Mk. 15:17-20 - ¹⁷ And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. ¹⁸ And they began to salute him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ¹⁹ And they were striking his head with a reed

and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him.²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

5) and spit on him –

Mk. 14:65 - ⁶⁵ And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophesy!" And the guards received him with blows.

6) and flog him

Mk. 15:15 - ¹⁵ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

7) and kill him.

Mk. 15:24 - ²⁴ And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take.

Mk. 15:37 - ³⁷ And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last.

8) Mk. 16:1 - ¹ When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³ And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" ⁴ And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. ⁵ And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶ And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸ And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

3. How did Jesus know these things would happen to him?

Knew the scriptures:

2 Chron. 36:15-16

¹⁵ The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place.¹⁶ But they kept

mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord rose against his people, until there was no remedy.

Neh. 9:26

²⁶ “Nevertheless, they were disobedient and rebelled against you and cast your law behind their back and killed your prophets, who had warned them in order to turn them back to you, and they committed great blasphemies.

Psa. 22:16-18

or dogs encompass me;
 a company of evildoers encircles me;
 they have pierced my hands and feet—
¹⁷ I can count all my bones—
 they stare and gloat over me;
¹⁸ they divide my garments among them,
 and for my clothing they cast lots.

Isa. 53:4-5

Surely he has borne our griefs
 and carried our sorrows;
 yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions;
 he was crushed for our iniquities;
 upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

He was sensitive to the guidance and revelation from the Father by the Holy Spirit.

2. Why did Jesus tell his disciples on three different occasions (in all three synoptic gospels) what would happen to him?

A. It's great importance.

B. It's difficulty of comprehension by the disciples

Why didn't the disciples understand what he was saying?

A. He knew their grasp of the full ministry of the suffering Servant-Messiah was greatly lacking, imbalanced, defective, impoverished.

B. It was hidden from them by the Lord:

Cf. [Ⓛ]"The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men." ⁴⁵ [Ⓛ]But they did not understand this saying, and [Ⓛ]it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it. Luke 9:44-45

- C. It's revelation of his commitment
- D. It's confirmation that he was the Messiah
- E. It's exhortation to us to believe and follow

Lessons:

Jesus knew what his mission was in life, and he intended to fulfill it.

Just like these predictions came true, so his other predictions will come true.

As the disciples were slow to understand and grasp the truths about Jesus's coming suffering, so we too may be slow to grasp Biblical truth. It takes study, time, and discussion to grow and mature. It takes the revelation of the Spirit to understand spiritual truths.

Jesus knew sufferings were ahead, but he did not shrink from them.

Jesus was a good teacher: repetition reinforces learning.

We need to know the scriptures like Jesus did, backwards and forwards.

As Jesus applied specific predictions of the Messiah's sufferings and victory to his life, so need to apply the scriptures to our own lives as well, to the point that we live them out.

As Jesus saw the victory of the resurrection at the end of the road of suffering, so we too, should be looking forward to the coming victory we will celebrate in when Christ comes to raise us from the dead and usher us into his everlasting kingdom on the new earth.

The revelation of the Spirit is needed to understand biblical truth. It is a supernatural happening in our lives.

We need to recognize him as Lord and Savior, commit, worship and proclaim.

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