

Getting Your Perception of God's Word Right

Introduction

Sometimes people will tell us things and we just don't get what they are trying to tell us.

Sometimes OUR personal perspectives get in the way of us accurately receiving messages

Jesus' disciples struggled with same problem of limited perspective and personal filters. Their religious point of view prevented them from grasping Jesus' predictions of His resurrection.

Six distinct times Jesus specifically told the disciples that He would rise from the dead.

But it wasn't until they had gone through the ordeal of the crucifixion and then seeing Him alive from the dead that they finally understood His promise of resurrection.

1. "You are the Christ!" Caesarea Philippi, Matthew 16:13-16; 21-23
January, about ten weeks before Jesus was crucified.

21 From then on Jesus began to point out to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and scribes, be killed, and be raised the third day.

22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, "Oh no, Lord! This will never happen to You!"

His understanding affected his perspective and his perspective inhibited him from accepting what he heard Jesus say. It also caused him to filter out the part about resurrection.

2. Mount of Transfiguration, Matthew 17:1-2; 7-9
Six days after #1

9 As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Don't tell anyone about the vision until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

Luke 9:45, "they were afraid to ask Him about it."

3. Traveling back to Capernaum, Matthew 17:22—23
February, approximately one week after the mountain experience.

22 As they were meeting in Galilee, Jesus told them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men."

23 They will kill Him, and on the third day He will be raised up."

The disciples' reaction: they were deeply distressed.

4. On the Last Journey to Jerusalem, Matthew 20:17-19
Early March
The most detailed preview of the cross and resurrection to that point.

How did the disciples react to this announcement?

Mark 10:32: they were astonished

Luke 18:34 they still didn't understand any of this.

5. In the Upper Room During the Lord's Supper, John 16:16-22

16 "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."

6. In the Garden of Gethsemane just before the Arrest, Matthew 26:30-32

About an hour after the Last Supper concluded.
On the Mount of Olives in the Garden of Gethsemane.

32 But after I have been resurrected, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

An irony: Matthew 27:62-66. The Jews had heard Jesus' promise to rise and were fearful the disciples would perpetrate a resurrection hoax

AFTER JESUS' RESURRECTION Luke 24:44-46

He appeared to the disciples and confirmed all of His promises.

Lessons:

1. The gospel accounts are history, not myth.
2. Jesus' resurrection validates every claim He ever made about Himself.
John 10:10-11, 11:25, 14:6
Jesus has the answers to your questions.

Three things you must do so that you can really hear what God says to you in His word:

3. You need to become as familiar with what the Bible says as you can.
4. You need to regard every day of your life as an opportunity to gain insight into what you have read in the Bible.
5. You need to trust that the things God says in the Bible are true and good.