

³² Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: ³³ “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; ³⁴ and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.” ³⁵ Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, “Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask.” ³⁶ And He said to them, “What do you want Me to do for you?” ³⁷ They said to Him, “Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory.” ³⁸ But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” ³⁹ They said to Him, “We are able.” So Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; ⁴⁰ but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but *it is for those* for whom it is prepared.” ⁴¹ And when the ten heard *it*, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. ⁴² But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³ Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. ⁴⁴ And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” ⁴⁶ Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging. ⁴⁷ And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁸ Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁹ So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, “Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you.” ⁵⁰ And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ So Jesus answered and said to him, “What do you want Me to do for you?” The blind man said to Him, “Rabboni, that I may receive my sight.” ⁵² Then Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.

Introduction

Up to this point in Mark’s gospel, Jesus has made it very clear to his disciples that he is going to **die and rise again from the dead**. (8:31, 9:31)

However as yet Jesus has not yet indicated the **purpose of his death and resurrection**.

The new section that we are about to cover today begins to explain the **purpose** of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

This purpose is explained with **an understanding of the Old Testament scriptures**.

Jesus has also made it very clear that to follow him in true discipleship is through **humble sacrificial servanthood**. (8:34, 9:35, 10:15, 31)

Jesus has also communicated to his disciples that **if they fail to follow him in this way, then entry to God’s kingdom is refused**.

Although Jesus has told his disciples that suffering must precede God’s Glory, nevertheless there is the **promise of blessing even in the life of suffering**.

It is very important that all Christians understand this point.

As Christians we will all suffer in some way, it is the badge of discipleship.

However, God promises blessing even through the suffering, and eventually “**Heaven**” will **release us from all suffering forever!!!**

2 Timothy Chapter 2: v. 10-12 in N.K.J.

¹⁰ Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

¹¹ *This is a faithful saying:*

For if we died with *Him*,

We shall also live with *Him*.

¹² If we endure,

We shall also reign with *Him*.

If we deny *Him*,

He also will deny us.

I will divide our passage today into three sections.

1. Prophecy concerning the death of Jesus. – v. 32-34.
2. Purpose of the death of Jesus – v. 35-45.
3. Power of “Faith” when it trusts in Jesus. - v. 46-52.

1. Prophecy concerning the death of Jesus – v. 32-34.

Jesus was now on his final journey and going up to Jerusalem.

A crowd of people were following Jesus.

Jesus was walking in front of everybody which was the normal cultural thing for a teacher to do.

What we need to remember is that it was “**Passover Time**”.

Lots of people were starting their journey and traveling towards Jerusalem.

Passover was the one Jewish Festival that all the people tried to attend if it was at all possible.

It was on this journey that Jesus took his disciples to one side and privately spoke to them about his forth coming **death and resurrection**.

This was the third time that Jesus had tried to warn his disciples of this important event.

The other times were in **Mark 8:31. and Mark 9: v. 31.**

When the Bible repeats something, it is always important.

The fact that Jesus **repeated something 3 times** means that not only was what he said important, but it also meant that He probably got the conviction that the disciples may have **understood with their heads** but **not with their hearts**.

It is important that we pick up this point right away.

Application

When you read the Bible, or study the Bible or come to a worship service like today, Jesus is trying to **communicate something important** to your personal life.

We are all at **different stages** in our personal spiritual growth, and some of us today are not yet Christians.

Only God knows your heart, I don't.

The Holy Spirit has a wonderful way of communicating truth in different ways to different people.

However, what is important is that our **hearts are prepared by God's Holy Spirit to receive God's word**.

Therefore, before we come to a worship service, before we study or read the Bible, we need to pray earnestly that our hearts will be open to receive **instructions from Jesus**.

Just in case we have had a busy week and have rushed to get to the service on time, or we didn't have a long devotional prayer time this morning, I would like **to stop for a moment and pray**.

After I have prayed I will leave 2 mins. silence for all of us to pray in our minds and hearts. Your prayers are personal to you, but praying that God's Holy Spirit will speak to us through God's word, the Bible is a good prayer to pray today.

Pastor's Prayer

Father we come before you this morning with what we feel are sincere hearts.

However, we ask that your Holy Spirit will change our hearts to make them very sensitive to what you are trying to communicate to us personally through your word at this time in our lives.

Perhaps there is somebody here today who feels that God might be calling them to become an evangelist, or Pastor, or full time missionary worker.

There is always a challenge when God is calling somebody to serve him.

The devil doesn't like it when God is calling new workers to serve Him.

Father we pray that your voice will be heard above all other voices today in this meeting.

Perhaps today there is somebody who is not yet a Christian?

Jesus is calling them to follow Him in faith and true discipleship, however there is a battle going on in their mind about the commitment to follow Jesus.

Father we pray for those people this morning, help them to see that Jesus really does love them and wants them to make the right decision, maybe today?

Father now as we have two mins. silence, we pray that we will all desire to surrender to your voice in our hearts.

(2 Mins. silence – exactly, then continue with the teaching)

So we now get back to Mark Chapter 10: v. 32-34.

In v. 32-34 Jesus communicates for the third time to his disciples about his death and resurrection.

So what actually does Jesus communicate to his disciples?

- a) **Jesus designates Himself as the "Son of Man".** There are many titles given to Jesus Christ, but this title appears to be one that **Jesus designated for Himself.** It occurs more times in Matthew's Gospel than in any other gospel. The reason for this is that Mathew's Gospel was written for the Jews and the title "**Son of Man**" was definitely a **Messianic title** derived from the old Testament.

Psalm 80: v.17.

¹⁷ Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand,
Upon the son of man *whom* You made strong for Yourself.

In the book of Ezekiel, the phrase "Son of Man" occurs 90 times and is always applied to the prophet himself and designates his **prophetic mission.**

It expresses the contrast between **what Ezekiel is in himself and what God will make out of him.**

It is done this way to make Ezekiel's mission appear to him, **not as his own work, but as the work of God.**

So when Ezekiel thought about giving up because his work was too hard, he was reminded that it was **God's work and not his work.**

God would give Ezekiel the **strength to continue in God's work.**

This is precisely why Jesus was happy to take upon Himself the title, "**Son of Man**".

Jesus was truly man, but truly God.

However, at this stage in the conversation, he was about to embark on his last mission.

Jesus was reminding himself that although his human side was perhaps as fearful as the disciples, there was a divine side which reminded him, that God would help him overcome His human side, and rely on His divinity to press on with his mission.

Application

There is a very important application here for all Christians.

When we become a Christian, then God's Holy Spirit enters our heart and life.

Then there are two sides to our lives.

There is the human side and the divine side.

We will always be human and subject to human failure and all the emotions and complexities of human life.

However, there is another life, this is the life of the Holy Spirit, who empowers us and equips us to live out our Christian life .

The Holy Spirit produces in us His fruit.

This is the "**fruit of the Holy Spirit**".

Galatians 5:22.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

You can't live the Christian life without the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, every day we need to **admit that we need the Holy Spirit to help us and strengthen us and work through us for God's glory.**

When you **feel like giving up**, that is just the time when **God wants you to trust and depend upon His Holy Spirit.**

A Missionary in Japan sent me a Bible verse to encourage me last Summer.

It was just what I needed from God.

"And he shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the Lord".

(Micah 5: v.4a)

God spoke very clearly to me through this verse, and I realised that even though I am 63 years old, I can still feed the flock at OIC in the **strength of the Lord.**

I can't do it in my own strength, but I can do it in the strength of the Lord.

If God can do this for **me**, then he can do this for **you too.**

So be encouraged today, that God will give you the strength for what HE wants You to do.

So in conclusion Jesus is telling His disciples that He is the promised Messiah from the Old Testament scriptures and He is going to complete His mission, in the **strength of Lord God.**

b) Jesus informs his disciples that there will be a judicial process before His death.

It is important that we understand this prophecy.

Jesus could easily have been killed by an assassin or hit man.

The Jewish Religious leaders could have paid somebody to kill him and the problem about Jesus and his following would have come to an end.

The word "**condemn**" in v. 33 is a **judicial word.**

Jesus was teaching his disciples that there would be some sort of trial before his death.

He also teaches his Jewish disciples that the "**Gentiles**" would be involved in this process.

This was a **prophetic statement** that was designed to implicate the **Roman authorities in the process of His death.**

c) Jesus informs his disciples about his treatment before his death.

Jesus tells his disciples that he is going to be "mocked", "scourged" which means flogged.

This was done by a whip with sharp metal objects entwined in the whip.

This was designed to cut the skin and make the back bleed in lots of places.

It was an awful punishment.

Jesus said he was also going to be spat on by people. This was also not a nice thing to happen.

Only God could prophesy about something with precise accuracy.

Jesus was truly God but truly man. Amazing but true.

2. Purpose of the death of Jesus - v. 35-45.

In v. 35-45 Jesus teaches his disciples about the **purpose of his death and resurrection.**

The disciples are playing their distraction game again.

To avoid soaking in the words of Jesus into their hearts, they are distracted by their **own self-importance.**

James and John asked Jesus for a **special favour.**

They asked that they might sit down at his right and left side, when Jesus returns to Heaven and is glorified.

What the disciples hadn't understood was that Jesus was going to suffer greatly before He got to Heaven.

Therefore, Jesus reminded them about something that he had previously taught them; **this was suffering that came before God's Glory.**

James and John said that they were willing to suffer.

Jesus informed them that they were going to go through similar suffering as Him.

However, the disciples would not go through the exact same suffering as Jesus.

Jesus was going to experience God's wrath for their sin.

The disciples would not go through that experience.

Yes, they would suffer physically, but not in the same way that Jesus had to suffer God's punishment for the sins of the whole world.

The problem was, that James and John, young men at the time, didn't fully realise what Jesus was about to suffer.

They did not realise **the seriousness of their own sin** and the need for divine punishment for their sin.

They were still living in the days when animals were sacrificed for their sin.

They had no concept that Jesus Christ, God's Son was about to be the once and for all sacrifice for sin.

John 1: v. 29 here in N.K.J.

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Jesus promised them the suffering, but didn't promise them a special place in heaven to sit by his side. Only God would decide that!!!

Then Jesus began to teach his disciples the purpose of His death.

The key verse in this section is verse 45.

⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

While the disciples were busy thinking about all the possible future privileges in heaven, Jesus was more concerned about the reason for his own personal suffering, and servanthood for mankind.

Jesus clearly teaches that He came to **serve mankind and give His life as a "Ransom" for many people.**

We need to understand this word "ransom" and how it might have been understood by the disciples.

The meaning of the word "ransom" is clearly set forth in Leviticus chapter 25: v.47-49.

The word means: **To deliver a thing or a person by paying a price in order to buy back a person or thing by paying the price for which it is held in captivity.**

In our modern world sometimes a person is kidnapped and held by a person or gang.

They promise to release that person if a sum of money is paid for that person's release.

The disciples would have understood the Temple sacrifices and the reason for them.

Animals were sacrificed in order to pay the price of forgiveness for sin.

The animal died in the place of the person.

Jesus was saying that he was going up to Jerusalem in order to be the "**ransom**" price, that would be paid to release people from the **punishment of sin.**

So it goes something like this.

a) Romans 7: v. 14 – N.K.J.

¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.

So everybody that is born is in effect sold under sin.

Every soul is born into this world under the sentence of death. They are sort of people in a slave market of sin.

Ezekiel 18:4.

⁴ "Behold, all souls are Mine;

The soul of the father

As well as the soul of the son is Mine;

The soul who sins shall die.

b) Jesus Christ, by His death, buys sinners out of the slave market of sin.

This indicates complete deliverance from the service of sin.

Jesus sets the prisoner free by paying a price, the price being His own precious blood.

1 Peter 1: v. 18-19 in the N.K.J.

¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

3. The Power of Faith, when it trusts in Jesus. – v. 46-51.

In v. 46-51 we have the story of a blind man who was healed on the way to Jerusalem. It happened just outside of Jericho.

We know the man's name was Bartimaeus and he usually sat at the roadside begging.

That day he would have quite a captive audience.

Many people would pass him by on route to the Passover festival.

However, on this day, the blind man was not satisfied with money, he wanted something that money could not buy.

He wanted his sight, and he recognised that Jesus was the Son of David, the Messiah.

He had the faith that Jesus could give him his sight and he didn't give up crying out for the mercy of Jesus.

People tried to put him off, but he became **more determined.**

Jesus commanded that this man be brought to him.

Jesus asked him a direct question, which was "**What do you want me to do for you?**"

Bartimaeus said that he wanted to receive his sight. He was blind.

Jesus said to him, "**Go your way, your faith has made you well.**"

Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.

This story is in contrast to the disciples.

This blind man had complete faith in Jesus and he received his sight through his faith.

He proved that he was a genuine disciple, because he followed Jesus on the road.

He immediately recognised who Jesus was.

Application

If you want to become a disciple of Jesus, you too will have to put your faith in Him.

You will need to believe that Jesus came to rescue you from the slave market of sin and set you free from hell and punishment.

You need to come as you are, recognise your need of Jesus and put your faith and trust in Him.

Amen.