

Daily Bible Study

“A Lesson Still Unlearned”

Mark 9:30-32

January 16 – January 22, 2011

THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY –We return this week to our study in Mark and take for our text, **Mark 9:30-32**. We have previously commented about the shift of scenery that was evident when Jesus and the disciples came down from the transcendent, magnificent glory that was evidenced on the mount of transfiguration to the confusing, disorderly and painful scene of the demonized boy and his father that awaited them below (**Mark 9:1-29**). In our text this week we see yet another of this type of scene shifting scenario. This shift is not merely geographical but is more about the entire scope and mission of Messiah Jesus. Christ now begins to “*steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem*” as Luke puts it in the parallel passage to our text (**Luke 9**). This passage marks a turning point as Jesus begins to close in on the end of His earthly life as He begins to approach Jerusalem and His crucifixion. We will also see that He makes sure that He has ample time away from the crowds in order to teach His men important truths they will need to know, understand, and believe to carry on their mission when He is physically gone and ascended into heaven. What is tragic yet very reminiscent of us as believers in Jesus today is the fact that the disciples had trouble understanding the main thing, the central message of the gospel; the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. We are often quick to be critical of them as we obviously see their flaws and times of weak faith demonstrated to us in Scripture; but make no mistake, we often suffer from the same faithlessness and misunderstanding of this the main thing, the central hope of our lives as Christians, the gospel of Jesus Christ as contained and lived out in His person and work. The text clearly tells us the disciples failed to understand but we need to ask ourselves; do we live like we really understand this message? If we live in this understanding it will change and govern how we think as well as everything we do. **Mark 9:30-32** “*Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, “The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.” But they did not understand this saying, and were afraid to ask Him.*”

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father God, Please teach and feed me from Your Word this week.

TUESDAY – **Mark 9:30** “*Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it.*” We read that the disciples and Jesus *departed from there*, “*there*” being the place where Jesus had just delivered the demon possessed boy from the grasp of Satan.

There have been different suggested routes mapped out by scholars and Bible students through the years and if you take out a map you can draw the route for yourself as described in Scripture. The text tells us that they *passed through Galilee* and **verse 33** informs us that their next destination as recorded would be Capernaum. The point that is necessary to see here and understand is that Jesus is beginning this journey toward Jerusalem, the journey toward His death. They are beginning on a “death march” if you will. We also need to see that Jesus is about the business of private tutoring here of the disciples. The text tells us concerning his travels that *He did not want anyone to know it*. Jesus did not want the crowds around Him at this time as HE was in the midst of teaching the disciples as we will see as we progress in the text. Christ understood that these men must grasp the truths of the Messiah's mission, the gospel message. He needed to teach and prepare them for His death and all that would then follow. Jesus is still concerned to not leave us as His modern day disciples uninformed and has left us His Word and The Holy Spirit to be our teacher. Read **John 14:25-26, John 17:8, 14-19, 1 John 2:27**.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Jesus, thank You for Your concern that I understand and believe Your gospel message. Holy Spirit, thanks for teaching me the eternal truths of the Word and of Jesus.

WEDNESDAY – Mark 9:31 “*For He taught His disciples and said to them, “The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.”* This verse contains the subject matter of what Jesus was teaching His disciples. We can see even in the language of this verse (*For He taught His disciples and said to them*) the apparent emphasis and importance Jesus placed on training these men for what was to come. This teaching was not for the general public this was for *them*, His men. There would come a time when these men would not only fully understand but would then take the glorious news of Christ’s death burial and resurrection to the public in a massive missionary effort. But now it was time for them to sit, listen, and learn from the Master teacher. This was not brand new instruction as we find on three recorded occasions in Mark (**Mark 8:31, 9:31, 10:33-34**) as well as the synoptics (Matthew & Luke) Jesus taught them about His cross. Of the three recorded times of this specific teaching in Mark this text is the second. There are parallels and there are distinctions in the first and the second teaching. An obvious parallel is that Jesus refers to Himself in both places as *The Son of Man*. An obvious distinction is that in **Mark 8:31** you will remember that Jesus spoke of the necessity of His death as He said, the *Son of Man must suffer many things...* In our text it seems as if Jesus is stressing the certainty of His death and the events to lead up and follow it as He says, “*The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.*” We will look further at the mention of His betrayal tomorrow but for today, meditate on this Divine plan of God which is unchanging, secure and absolute. Jesus is not speaking of hypotheticals but rather of certainties. Read **John 10:17-18**.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You for Your Divine plan of salvation that can't be altered or changed by anyone. Thanks for Your love & grace toward me and undeserving sinner. Thanks that from eternity passed, You chose me as Your child and in Your time brought me to faith in Christ.

THURSDAY – Mark 9:31 “For He taught His disciples and said to them, “The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.” Another distinction in this teaching of His disciples versus the first one in **Mark 8:31** is that now Jesus specifically mentions His betrayal as He clearly tells them, *The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men...* Obviously this statement by our Lord indicts both Judas (**John 13:18-30**) the betrayer as well as the religious leaders (Elders, Chief Priests, Scribes, Sanhedrin) who would all play a part in the death of Messiah; the long awaited Messiah to whom they owed everything including love and obedience. We understand that as Jesus said in the **John 13:18-30** passage, these things were happening all according to plan so that as Jesus said, “...the Scripture may be fulfilled”. Jesus then moves past the issue of His impending death and speaks to His burial and resurrection as He states ...And *after He is killed, He will rise the third day.* We will not look at the issue of the “three days” in this study as we have discussed it previously in the past. Suffice to say, there are varying opinions as to how the three days are counted and when it is that Jesus death and resurrection should be “celebrated” (if I may). The final point that must not be forgotten amidst all the speculating and opinionating is that Jesus said *after He is killed, He will rise the third day.* This is precisely what He did (**Mark 16:1-8**). Focusing on the prediction of Jesus in His resurrection I would point out that Matthew says Jesus would *be raised up* (**Matthew 17:23**) and Mark records *He will rise* (**Mark 9:31**). These are two different words in the Greek language and they though different are not conflicting with the facts of the resurrection. One speaks of Jesus being raised up of His own power and the other of Him rising in the power of another. **John 2:19** and **John 10:17-18** make it clear that Jesus would rise again in His own power (see also **John 11:25, Revelation 1:18**) while passages such as **Acts 3:26, Romans 4:24-25, and Romans 6:4** indicate it was The Father who raised Jesus. Not to stop there we also understand that it is The Holy Spirit who imparts life (**Genesis 1:2, Psalms 104:30**) and He certainly was involved in the Resurrection of Christ as indicated clearly in **Romans 8:11**. This powerful work of the Resurrection of Christ Jesus was a work of God, The Triune God, who is One God in three persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit I worship and praise You as God; the only God who exists. Thank You for Your power over death and sin as well as Your love for me a sinner. Jesus, thank You for being willing to be a man and die in my place and rise so that I may live.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY – Mark 9:32 “*But they did not understand this saying, and were afraid to ask Him.*” We end up in our text with looking at the disciple’s reaction to this prediction of Jesus concerning His death and resurrection. We must put ourselves in the place of these men who hearing Jesus, their beloved Master, teacher, and friend speak of His death must have been sorrow filled and somewhat afraid and confused. As we often say, they needed ears to hear what Jesus was telling them and they needed to put their minds on the things of god as He had revealed them in Holy Scripture. Matthew in his record of this text says of the disciples, *they were exceedingly sorrowful (Matthew 17:23)*. Luke even speaks of this supernatural element of Divine revelation as he says, *But they did not understand this saying, and it was hidden from them so that they did not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask Him about this saying (Luke 9:45)*. It was *hidden from them*. This hiding was in accord with God’s Sovereign decree. It is also God who opens the eyes and hearts of His people (**Matthew 16:17**). Jesus specifically opens the understanding of His disciples after His resurrection in **Luke 24:45**. The disciples were *were afraid to ask* Jesus about this and possibly they remembered the rebuke Peter took when he had told Jesus that He was not going to die and suffer (**Mark 8:33**). Bottom line they were told to listen and understand and yet needed God’s aid to do so. Luke says in this very text that Jesus informed them to “*let these words sink down into your ears...*” We must do all we can to repent and believe the Gospel and hear the words of Jesus but we also understand **Philippians 2:13** *...for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure*. I’m closing with some lyrics I think ware applicable from Flame’s song “Joyful Noise” (with Lecrae & John Reilly): Man I'm trying to lift Him high, Higher than the stars, I am not of this world like I'm from the planet mars, I love to preach Jesus you can read it in my bars, I'm pretty straight forward when I'm speaking bout my Lord. He paid the sin price being beat by Roman guards, But when He resurrected gave us life free of charge. Now me and my boys need to be in the psych ward, Cause we went crazy for God our lives was scarred. Now in the Book of Life, our names have been written down, We're casting our crowns before His feet on the ground. It's such a holy melody and a heavenly sound, Hearing holy holy holy coming out of the mouth, Of the four living creatures by His throne all around, Can you picture the scene this this is how it's going down. You just need a little faith and a new set of eyes and a telescopic lens to look in and see God, I love it!

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me always come to You believing. Strengthen my weak faith.