

Daily Bible Study

“The Road Less Travelled”

Mark 10:32 - 34

September 4 – September 10, 2011

THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY –Picking back up our study of Mark’s Gospel we take as our text for this week **Mark 10:32-34**. This text provides us with a vivid picture, a scene painted by Mark so eloquently in words. We also see a vivid picture into the life of Jesus Christ; the man who is God. Mark has taken us on a journey through the life of Jesus; we have been “on the road” if you will with Jesus throughout this Gospel record and now we begin the “final descent” or maybe it would be better rendered “ascent”. It was on this road, *The Road Less Travelled* that Jesus, The God-Man would go and do what no other man could ever do; stand before the judge, absorb the guilty verdict and the punishment that comes with it (death) for sin against The Only God. He alone could take the wrath of God upon Himself, bear the ultimate curse (death) and then in triumph be raised in power because He had pleased the Father and had atoned for the sin of His people. Jesus beat Satan, death and sin and fulfilled the Trinity’s holy plan of redemption by going to the cross and there carrying out the “*determined purpose of God*” (**Acts 2:23**). Jesus had set his entire life course toward Jerusalem and the cross while trusting God (**Isaiah 50:7**). We’ve seen in Mark’s record of Jesus ministry His travels north, to the area around Caesarea Philippi. There was then a journey south, stopping briefly in Galilee. There also had been time spent in Judaea and the country beyond the Jordan. All along Mark has been our guide to see the area and people Christ ministered too and now there is the final road. The life of perfection had been lived for us and now He takes the lonely road toward death for us. In our text we read Jesus speaking about His upcoming ministry by crucifixion. **Mark 10:32- 34** “*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: “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; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.”*”

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

Suggestion for Prayer: *Father God, teach and feed me from Your Word this week. May I see Jesus in all His glory and be drawn to love Him more and follow Him in obedience.*

TUESDAY – Mark 10:32 “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... Several things jump out of the first portion of this verse to us. The whole *on the road* language which Mark uses repeatedly is quite interesting. Literally the word *hodos* in the greek can mean, “way, road, journey, way of life”. It is true that Jesus was on a literal road here in our text but we are reminded that He was also on figurative road. The Old Testament often uses the metaphor of a road, way or path to describe the godly life (**Psalms 23:3; 32:8; 50:23; 119:1; 139:3; Proverbs 2:12–15; 4:18; 12:28; 15:24**). We also read from Isaiah the prophet that John the Baptist’s ministry was one of preparing “*the way of the Lord*” (**Isaiah 40**). In the New Testament we learn that an early title for the church was “*the Way*” (**Acts 9:2; 19:9, 23; 22:4, 14, 22**). It would appear that Mark uses this biblical metaphor of a journey of faith, a godly lifestyle of faith throughout one’s life to describe and explain Jesus’ life, journey, way, road, pilgrimage; one that leads Him to the cross (**Mark 10:45**). As mentioned, several things are written here that describe Jesus, subtle strokes of the Divine artist as The Holy Spirit through the man Mark eloquently paints with the pen. The descriptive pictures are as follow: first, the loneliness Jesus must have experienced as the God-Man, the genuine leader, the real and true servant. Notice the phrase *and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed*. Jesus is walking; He is out front, the lonely leader; all alone with His thoughts, all alone with His God and Father. The disciples meanwhile are *amazed* at their leader Jesus and His character but they are also at a distance; seemingly not able to fully grasp what their leader is dealing with. Leadership is lonely business which requires a heart and mind fixed and strengthened by God. He is the only one that can truly bring comfort, assurance, and relief to the soul. Those in God ordained leadership (husband, father, church leadership, boss, etc...) can learn this very practical lesson from looking at Jesus life.

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

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thanks for teaching and leading me by The Holy Spirit & Scripture, and modeling for me in the life of Jesus “the way of righteousness, the way of life everlasting”.

WEDNESDAY – Mark 10:32 “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... Another thing that stands out to us from this verse is the great courage of Jesus. We mentioned that the disciples were *amazed*; probably because they are becoming at least in part aware of the facts concerning the three previous prophecies about Jesus and His suffering and death in Jerusalem. Jesus told them of the things that were to happen to him in Jerusalem, and each time He speaks about it the details and horror of the experience gets clearer and more vivid. **Mark 8:31** is the first announcement which is very simple. Next in **Mark 9:31** we are informed about

betrayal and more detail. Now, in our current text **Mark 10:33-34** we are given a lot of detail which includes *betrayal, mocking, spitting, scourging*, etc... The picture of the cost of redemption is clear in the mind of Jesus and this highlights for us His love for His people and His courage. These men and us as well ought to be *amazed* because in spite of what Jesus knew faced Him He still moved forward with courage and confidence. Jesus' courage was the real deal for it was not a "heat of the moment" reactionary courage but rather a courage based on a full understanding from eternity past of what horror and grim task He would perform in the place of the elect (**Revelation 13:8**). Finally from this **verse 32** we learn that a lot of people *followed* Jesus. The Greek construction informs us that more than merely The Twelve are in view. There are many disciples following Jesus and we also recognize vast crowds of people may have been heading to Jerusalem as Passover was approaching. We see there are different reactions among those *following* the Lord Jesus. Heading to Jerusalem behind Jesus is a bit risky. Donald English commenting says, "The combination of his commitment to fulfill his Father's calling, and the growing perplexity of the Twelve, which was communicated to the others who followed him, creates a strong atmosphere of tension. He led, the disciples were astonished (a frequent word in Mark), and the rest were afraid (32)." Here comes Jesus, and as The Good Shepherd, He is taking the lead (**John 10:4**) and moving forward in a very resolute fearless type fashion (**Isaiah 50:7**). He is on mission, the true Passover Lamb coming to offer *himself* as an offering for "the sin of the world" (**John 1:29**). He will not merely go there and die, but will in fact *lay down his life* (**John 10:11, 15**). The following verses will display the Divinity of The God-Man as He foretells in detail of His own death; Yes, in fact this man is actually and also God.

(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 incredible courage to face and bear the wrath of the Father for my sin. Thank You also for such great love displayed in Your tremendous sacrifice.*

THURSDAY – Mark 10:32b- 34 "Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: "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; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." In the middle of this tense and anxious scene we find Jesus *took the twelve aside again*... We have seen that Jesus often separated the group to speak to The Twelve on a more intimate level. He doesn't see the need to tell the entire crowd this news so like He has done so many times before; He calls His men *aside again* and begins to give them the details surrounding His death. The Lord is interested in coming alongside His children, coming to His own and speaking to them Words of Life, words of instruction. We need to learn from this the necessity of being instructed by The Lord again and again and over and over in a consistent manner because we often suffer with dullness of heart. The Lord God speaks to us in our daily

quiet times alone with Him and in His Word and prayer (**Psalm 1:2, 119:11**) and also this teaches us that we must not forsake the assembling of ourselves together with God's people in times of corporate worship and fellowship (**Hebrews 10:24-25**) where He speaks to us as a corporate whole.

(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 being so concerned for me as Your child that You speak to me from Sacred Scripture. Give me ears to hear and the desire to learn and obey.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY – Mark 10:33- 34 “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; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.” Jesus begins this private talk with, “Behold”. We could translate this, “Look, Listen, Pay attention”. What Jesus is about to say He wanted His men to learn from. There are many things for us to learn also packed into this prophecy from our Lord. One interesting thing to notice is this is a very detailed prophecy. Jesus gives detail of events which we find out come true in every way, exactly as He said. If nothing else, this alone proves His Deity as God. Only God knows precisely what will take place concerning future events (**Isaiah 46:10**). Again Jesus’ compassion for lost sinners, His courage to do what has been determined in eternity past, and His leadership to pursue the goal regardless of emotions and perceptions comes shining through. He ends this prophecy with the marvelous words, “And the third day He will rise again”. *He will rise again* is a future middle indicative in the Greek. It focuses on Jesus “raising Himself” (**John 10:17–18**). Most passages on the resurrection of Christ are passive voice where the action is received from another. They focus on God the Father as the agent of the resurrection showing His acceptance of Jesus’ sacrifice. We know the entire Trinity was involved in Jesus’ resurrection (**Romans 8:11**). This man, The Man Who Is God would conquer death, and He knew it.

(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. Praise, honor and glory to You forever.