

MARK 8:31-33

THE WAY OF THE CROSS.

REVIEW:

- 6-9 months from the crucifixion.
- Jesus draws out from them who they believe He is.
- "The Christ the Son of the Living God."
- Upon this rock I will build My Church. What rock?
 - Jesus will build His church upon the Rock of the Spirit born revelation from the Father.
 - I will build My church upon the work that My Father initiates.
 - The Father sends the Son, the Father draws the church to His Son, the Promise of the Father is sent, the Holy Spirit.
 - The rock of Jesus the Christ. God the Son.
- That they should keep this revelation to themselves, tell no one.
- All Jesus' teaching and emphasis now begins to change.
- He now sets His face like a flint, committed to enter Jerusalem.

INTRO:

- These verses bring us to the second of 3 great revelations.
- One great task had now been accomplished; the disciples had been brought to a realization of the divine person of Jesus. The first of 3.
- Now a second lesson had to be taught and realized; the revelation of how Jesus the Messiah was to accomplish His redemptive work. his mission.
- From the revelation just mentioned, (29) Jesus begins to prepare His disciples for His coming passion and crucifixion.
- He is doing all that is possible to strengthen them for the coming fight for their faith.
- He loves them so much He is so committed to them and being the Great Shepherd He does all He can to secure their steadfastness during their upcoming tribulation.
- This preparing of their minds and hearts is a reoccurring theme from this point on, His passion. **MK. 9:31, 10:33**
- Jesus determines they will not fall away, satan shall not snatch them from His hand.
- Jesus longed to tell them sooner, but they were not able to handle all things yet.
 - "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. (Jn. 16:2)
- From this point in Marks gospel, Mark focuses on their journey to Jerusalem with his emphasis on Jesus approaching His death and resurrection.
- The religious leaders who hated Jesus and plotted to kill him would not have to track him down in some far-off corner of Israel, for Jesus Himself would come to them.

READ MK. 8:31-33

VS. 31: And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

- **BEGAN:** This direction of teaching was new. Jesus had not emphasized it yet, though it was hinted at in picture.
- **Son of Man:** a name meaning both Christ's divine Messiahship and His humanity. A favorite title of Jesus.
- Jesus tells them 4 things regarding His future.
 - 1) He was going to suffer many things.
 - 2) He was going to be rejected by the religious leaders.
 - 3) He was actually going to be killed.
 - 4) He would rise again from the dead. (this they seemed not to hear.)
- Jesus places much emphasis on these things by highlighting them with the phrase "**MUST** suffer." Something inevitable to secure the goal.
 - Fathers' business, Samaria, to Jerusalem, preach kingdom, lifted up.
- These statements of His are not a probability they are a certainty, and not by a aimless circumstance, they must take place and the sovereignty of the Father will see to it.
 - **Acts 2:23, 4:24-28.**
- **Rejected:** To reject after having put a person or thing to the test for the purpose of approving. That person not meeting the specification.
- Jesus did not meet the specifications set down by the religious leaders regarding their idea of the Messiah.
- This declaration of Jesus would have, and did, stun the disciples.
- Why, after they had just come to a fixed glorious confession and realization that Jesus is the Messiah would He talk about a suffering, a rejection, a death?
- That is not the Messiah,,,,, is it? He is to be our glorious Champion and King.
- Did not the scriptures teach them, prophecy to them, and promise them a Messiah who would defeat all their enemies and establish a glorious kingdom for Israel?
- Something is wrong here; Jesus must be mistaken.
- they must certainly be confused or Jesus is confused.
- Rather than this declaration there should have been a great triumphant celebration.
- How shocked the poor disciples must have been, for instead of hearing from Christ that He was going to Jerusalem to be crowned and receive a kingdom and be crowned, He was instead going so He could be betrayed, suffer and be crucified.
- They were unaware of what the writer to Hebrews says in 2:10;
 - For it was fitting for Him, for whom *are* all things and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.
- The world is full of the history of men who used their power to escape a cross, but Jesus used His power to secure and endure the cross.
- The heavenly attitude we must learn is not to seek for glory, but for usefulness in the kingdom even if we must reach it through a cross.

VS: 32: *He spoke this word openly. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him.*

- **OPENLY:** Not in parable or simile or picture form, but plainly, bluntly, clearly and unmistakably.
- Peter quickly reacts and then speaks and challenges Jesus, but what he said and did was on all of their hearts.
- **REBUKE:** to find fault with, rebuke; hence to charge strictly. This word is the same strong word used where Jesus rebukes demons. (Mk. 1:25 and 3:12)
- What was it that rose up in Peter and caused Him to rebuke His Master?
 - Love for Christ. Yes
 - Confusion.
 - Perhaps Peters' confidence in himself, that he was capable of defending Jesus. (the garden)
 - Peters own desire to share in the Messiahs glory?
- Peters burst of boldness may also been inspired by his recent praise from Jesus, perhaps the endorsement of Christ emboldened him to speak out. A result of ill placed confidence in himself a show of pride.
- Peter forgot he was called blessed not because he was something but because he had received something.
- How vulnerable, how pliable is human nature and emotion. So easily swayed, so easily moved and affected by outward things.
- One moment Peter was a rock and the next an offense, a stumbling stone.
- How we need to have our souls and emotions anchored in the word of God, the cross and God Himself.
- Peter and the rest of the disciples, like us, did not understand the relationship between suffering and glory.
- As Peter grew in the Lord, He would grasp this difficult lesson.
 - **1 Peter 1:6-8, 4:12-13, 5:10.**

VS:33: *But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, "Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."*

- Jesus' rebuke was not only directed at Peter, but at all the disciples as well. "Jesus looked at His disciples."
- They were still ignorant of the true relationship between the cross and the crown
- There is no such thing in the Christian life as glory without suffering.
- suffering transforms into glory.
 - Rom. 5:3; And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh. (KJV)
- The word rebuke here is the same as used above of Peters rebuke of Christ, and Christ the demons. To find fault with, rebuke; hence to charge strictly.
- What did Jesus mean by His words, "get behind me satan?"
- Was Peter possessed? No, but the thinking of Peter, the reasoning of Peter was a mirrored reflection of satans thinking. Keep Jesus from the cross.

- This was the exact tactic satan had used on Jesus in the temptation in the wilderness. Jesus, take the easy way, Jesus take the short cut that I can give you.
 - Mt. 4:8-10;
- Jesus saw the source of the statement, it had originated with satan, the adversary. Peter had become the devil's messenger.
- Also in Matt. gospel we see that Jesus also not only gives us the source of Peters rebuke, but the why; for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."
- Peter was only mindful of the things from mans perspective, his natural mans perspective.
 - Isa. 55:8, 9; "For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways," says the LORD. ⁹"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.
- Oh how we like to rationalize with our own minds and not the word of God, the mind of God.
- He did not treasure the things of God.

CONCLUSION:

- In the world we will have tribulation. (Jn. 16:33)
- To the world the cross is an offence, for Christ to be enticed to avoid the cross was an offense.
- There are always two ways of looking at things, God's way and man's way.
- This is the great divide between godliness and godlessness.
- The godly person is deeply concerned about the things of God, while the godless person is deeply concerned about his own things, he has little concern for the things of God, being preoccupied with himself and his kingdom.
- Where is my mind and heart? What influences my decisions? What am I foremost occupied with, my kingdom or the Kingdom of God.
- Does my heart beat most rapidly for the things of God and the establishment and growth of His kingdom? (Mt. 6:33)
- what drives me, what is compelling me? To what goal is my energy devoted to, to what shore does my compass point?
- **Read Maclaren pg. 127**
- This same principal is ours today.