

WALKING WITH THE SAVIOUR (Mk. 10:32-34)

³² And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him, ³³ Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles: ³⁴ And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.

I would suggest that for many of us our two favourite subjects in the Bible are firstly, the cross, and secondly, the coming again of the Lord Jesus. The first time He entered this world was to become our Saviour, **Mt. 1:21** *And she [Mary] shall bring forth a son, and thou [Joseph] shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

The first of many occasions in the Old Testament where this coming was announced is recorded as far back as Gen. 3:15, in the Garden of Eden. His second coming was also first referred to two chapters later in Genesis 5:18-24, in relation to the Enoch about whom Jude wrote, **14** *And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,* **15** *To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.*

Jesus, therefore, is the promised Saviour, **Lk. 2:11** *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord ...* **Jn. 1:29** *Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. ...* **I Tim. 2:5** *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*

That is the reason Jesus entered the world on that first occasion ... to be our Saviour. At this very moment He is in Heaven, and He has promised He is coming back to this earth again. ... And that is our Good News! ... His first coming as Saviour, and His second coming as King.

As we study the Gospels, it is obvious Jesus was confident in the plan He, along with His Father and the Holy Spirit, formulated in eternity, before the world was. He knew exactly what was ahead of Him. He was under no illusions as to why He entered this world. He knew His Father had sent Him to become the Sacrifice for His people, and ultimately He would suffer and die on the cross of Calvary. In the first words He is recorded as saying in the New Testament, - as a young twelve-year old boy, - He made it plain to His parents, **Lk. 2:49** *How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? ...* He knew that was His purpose ... And the last words He spoke confirmed He had successfully accomplished that objective, **30** *It is finished.*

“My Father’s business” would take Him to the cross. It would take Him from Bethlehem, and then down to Egypt as a little boy fleeing from the wicked King Herod. After living in Egypt for a time, His parents would return with Him to Nazareth where He would live and do the work of a carpenter until He was in His late twenties. And then, at that stage in His short life on earth, He would openly and publicly fulfil the purpose for why He was sent.

Mark 10:32-34 is the third time He introduced this aspect of His ministry. The first was in 8:31 (And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again), and the second was in 9:31 (For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day). ... On both occasions, the disciples did not understand ... On the first occasion Peter took Him aside and remonstrated with Him (8:32). On the second occasion, they still didn’t understand, and they 9:32 were afraid to ask him.

They could not take it in why Jesus was speaking like this for they understood His reason for coming was to establish on earth His Messianic Kingdom, as Mark indicates in the section following, **Mk. 10:35** And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire. ³⁶ And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you? ³⁷ They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory.

In the preceding verses though, - on this third occasion, - He gave them further details as to what would happen, **Mk. 10:32** And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him, ³³ Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles: ³⁴ And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.

How did He know this? Well, from a human perspective, since boyhood Jesus had been taught the Old Testament in His local synagogue. He knew the Scriptures intimately... and from a Divine perspective, Jesus is God and He knows all things. He knew every detail before any of them took place and, in

fact, *He put* them all in place. Nothing occurred outside of His planning for everything worked perfectly in accordance with His will ... His birth to a virgin, His exile to Egypt, His identity as a Galilean, and all the details referring to His life, death and resurrection ... He knew it all because He knew the Old Testament Scriptures, and because He is God.

In this past week we have seen a momentous change in world politics, - who could have predicted it?! ... And yet, look at v.32, *And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him* ... No one else could do that, only Jesus. Proverbs 27:1 tells us none of us knows what a day may bring forth, but Jesus knew. As He spoke to His disciples and explained to them *what things should happen unto him*, ... it was as sure and as certain as if they had already happened!

How can that be? The answer is plain ... it is because *Jesus is God!* He is the all-knowing God. He is the One Whose Name is **Is. 9:6** *Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.* ... He is not a 'second-hand' God, or a God of lesser importance for He is *truly* God. ... He was not a human being who *became* God ... and then when He cried out, "It is finished" He reverted to being an ordinary mortal. No, for Jesus is God, "True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, Lo, He shuns not the Virgin's womb; Son of the Father, begotten, not created" ... **Phil. 2:6** *Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross ... Col. 1:16* *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; 20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. ... That's the Jesus Who, - on the road up to Jerusalem, - was explaining to His disciples *what things should happen unto him* (Mk. 10:32).*

He was coming from the direction of the River Jordan, and through Jericho. It is quite a climb ... Jericho, - at 853 feet below sea level, - is the lowest city on earth. It is beautiful, but it's hot ... and Jesus took the winding path upwards to Jerusalem. Today, as you travel on the main road, you are travelling through

the desert on either side, - it's still dry and barren ... and it would have been even more so two thousand years ago. ... And this was the terrain through which Jesus was teaching His disciples concerning the grief awaiting Him. ... That was the Bible College in the desert!

And there is an important feature recorded in v.32, *And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them* ... Jesus was not being *dragged* along reluctantly somewhere He didn't want to go for He was out in front, at the head of His disciples, as Luke described, **Lk. 9:51** *And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, ...* Of His own will, *Jesus led the way* to Jerusalem, and all He knew that was before Him, and that is very probably why the disciples were amazed (Mk. 10:32), for why would He want to go there, knowing what was ahead of Him?! ... They were *definitely* afraid, and they were thoroughly confused!

Why would you go somewhere you knew great harm awaited? Why put yourself through it?! ... They would not have done it. They would have stayed away, - they would not have gone anywhere *near* Jerusalem! And yet, they *did* follow Jesus ... Jesus the Shepherd leading His sheep ... *and Jesus went before them*.

So, in preparation, He presented to them what was going to happen. He was *forewarning* them, so they would be not caught unawares. The enemy was up ahead, and He was making His disciples ready. *Frightening!* ... And that is why He drew them aside and told them, but, - even at that, - when it actually would happen, they would run off and desert Him!

We are so fickle, as the hymn writer has written, "Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love." Being a Christian is easy when the waters around us are smooth and calm ... but when they begin to ripple and become rough, *where are we*, and what becomes of us?! True Holy Spirit-given faith is the only faith that keeps you from 'going under' for such a real faith is in God alone. Neither you nor I know what is 'around the next corner', but God does ... and if we are as precious to Him as His Word says we are, He will keep us ... and we believe His promises by faith.

Remember, - shortly after Jesus was born, - King Herod panicked when he heard the news coming from the Magi. He immediately consulted the chief priests and the scribes, and **Mt. 2:5** *demandod of them where Christ should be born.* ⁵

And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, **6** And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. ... The chief priests and the scribes knew their Scriptures! There was no hesitation in giving Herod his answer. They didn't have to go and search through the Old Testament, for they knew exactly what it taught ... and yet, they did not have the urgency to go and find Jesus, as the Magi from the east did. ... And here is the point ... Jesus was telling these disciples about what was going to take place ... they should already have known. As Jews with the Old Testament Scriptures, they should have known, but sadly, such was the poor spiritual diet they were being fed in their synagogues, they did not realise the enormity of Who they were with and what was about to happen.

Isn't it equally as sad when people have their Bibles and yet they cannot recognise the Saviour of Whom it speaks. They read about the cross, and His sacrifice there but it does not penetrate their hardened hearts or open their eyes. ... That is how the Jews were *then* towards the truth of the Old Testament, and it's equally sad that is how it is with them today also. ... Take heart, though, for God in His Word makes a very special promise relating to that nation, **Zech. 12:9** it shall come to pass in that day [*... of the Lord's return*], that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. **10** And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

In the corresponding passage in Luke 18, it is made so clear, **Lk. 18:31** Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man *shall be accomplished*. ... It is as sure as that ... *it shall be accomplished!* ... And that is how Jesus was teaching them, **Mk. 10:33** Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles: **34** And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him.

Their Old Testament taught them about the sacrificial system, - they were very familiar with it, - and they knew they needed a substitute to die in their place, for their sin to be atoned for. They were taught, - in the synagogue, - to bring the sacrifice of a lamb, and hand it to the priest who would offer it on the altar ... its blood would be poured out, and it would be their personal substitute-

sacrifice. Instead of them having to die for their own sin, the lamb took their place. But the problem was, they had to keep bringing sacrifice after sacrifice after sacrifice ... and it became a thoroughly futile exercise. *Therefore*, Isaiah 53 and other passages in the Old Testament, taught how God would supply a once-and-for-all Sacrifice to be brought as a lamb to the slaughter (v.7) to atone for all the Redeemed. The final Sacrifice would eradicate the need for all others.

The disciples would have known all that, - they would have had to study these things for their *bar mitzvah*, - and they should have been waiting for and expecting the final Sacrifice, **Is. 53:6** *the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.* ... Also, listening to Jesus, they should have recognised what John the Baptist had recognised when he heralded Jesus, **Jn. 1:36** *Behold the Lamb of God!* ... And, in fact, some of the disciples were there at the River Jordan to hear that clear declaration. ... But, isn't it often the case we get used to what we hear to the point we hardly believe it ... we become 'numb' to it!

Indeed, there were so many specific details in their Old Testament that it was clear these disciples were still not understanding. It is also so simply beautiful that all they had to do was to believe it *literally* ... that the prophets promised and prophesied God would send His Son as the Lamb to be slain for their salvation. ... How complicated we make God's Word, when we should simply take it as He says it!

This is God's Word, - infallible, inerrant, inspired, totally accurate from beginning to end, authoritative, reliable, durable, consistently truthful throughout. ... You can trust its every word, for it is *God's Word!*

And the Author began to tell His disciples about events He alone would know for He wrote the plans in the counsel of His own will, **Eph. 1:9** *according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself.* He told them how He would be delivered, **Mk. 10:33** *the Son of man shall be delivered, - betrayed.* Someone close to Him would be unfaithful, **Ps. 41:9** *Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.* ... It is like the friend needling up alongside you, and then, - all of a sudden, - throwing you on the ground, and driving their heel forcefully and violently into your neck. ... It is as horrific as that!

And the chief priests, - those scheming, religious aristocrats, - ... they would make up lies to condemn Jesus. Not a word of truth in their accusations! Truth was so cruelly expendable! They did not even lie well or convincingly, but such is the heart of man that it is **Jer. 17:9** ... *deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.*

It was religion, - false religion, - Jesus was telling His disciples would condemn Him to die, **Mk. 10:33** ... *the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles.* They will pervert the law ... they will twist it and change it to get rid of Jesus. That is how much they hated Him, and the Saviour knew it ... even beforehand. ... That is what He was telling His disciples on the road from Jericho up to Jerusalem. He predicted how they would mock Him, scourge/beat/flog Him. They will come up to Him and *spit* in His face ... they will condemn Him to die. Not one of the disciples will stand up for Him, or utter a word in His defence. And the Jewish leaders will pass the judgment, "Crucify Him, Crucify Him". ... And then they will hand Him over to the Romans to be cruelly put to death ... death by crucifixion ... by the cruellest means at their disposal.

And Jesus knew all this, for He is God and He knows all things ... but He was also giving this information to His disciples for 'to be forewarned is to be forearmed' ... or that is how it should have been! ... They ought to have been suitably prepared for this when it would take place ... Sadly, though, when it came to the time, 'the sheep deserted the Shepherd'.

When you read the prophecies of Christ prior to the crucifixion, it happened exactly as He said it would. Once again, it reminds us how reliable His Word truly is. It shows us also how we don't need to search for hidden meanings ... just simply take it as He simply says it. That is what the disciples were required to do. If, - while listening to Jesus on the Jericho to Jerusalem road, - they had recalled how Isaiah prophesied concerning this event, how different it ought to have been ... for, - looking away into the future, - Isaiah used such words to describe the rejected Jesus as having no form or comeliness (**Is. 53:2**), *no beauty that we should desire him.* ³ ... *despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. He will bear our griefs, and carry our sorrows, He will be stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. He will be* ⁵ *wounded for our transgressions, ... bruised for our iniquities. He will be chastised and beaten, ... and the stripes on His perfect sinless body will open His flesh, and*

the precious blood will flow freely. ... And as He dies, - in agony, in pain, in humility, in disgrace, - the worst is yet to come, for His Father will lay **on him the iniquity of us all** ... and then, - *here is the worst of it*, - His Father will turn away His face and reject His beloved only-begotten Son!

We could not even begin to imagine what Jesus suffered for us! It is beyond human comprehension, - not even the angels in Heaven knew ... only the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ... the Godhead.

Just as it is impossible to describe the glories of Heaven, it is equally as impossible to describe the pain and agony Jesus suffered for you and for me. And yet, it was all in God's plan, **Is. 53:10** ... **to bruise him; he hath put him to grief ... for the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand ... by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.**

That is what Jesus was explaining to His disciples. He took them back to the Scriptures, - in the same way He took the two on the road to Emmaus back to the Scriptures. He showed the disciples **Mk. 10:32** **what things should happen unto him.**

But, this is like no ordinary story because *His* story does not end at His death ... **34** **And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.** ... He is not going to stay dead, for 'death cannot hold its prey'! ... And notice how there is not a 'but' in the last part of that verse, for it is an 'and'. Each aspect follows through because His cruel death *and* victorious resurrection were all part of God's plan. ... Though it would almost seem as if Jesus was helpless as they mocked, scourged, spat upon, and finally killed Him, *He would rise again!* He could have stopped those cruel men, - He could have called ten thousand angels, and they would have been there in an instant, but He didn't for He was carrying out the plan of His Father, instigated before the very creation of this world. So, therefore, every part of God's program was accounted for, and would be implemented ... and nothing took Him unawares. "My Father planned it all!"

And that is how you are saved, - God planned it all. He planned your salvation, even before you were born! ... These disciples were struggling to understand Jesus, and you and I could not have understood it either ... but it was when God, - in Divine mercy and Sovereign grace, - opened your heart to

receive Him, and you believed ... that was when the mystery of salvation was revealed. ... That is the salvation which is all of God ... every intricate little detail He Divinely and sovereignly put in place, for His own glory.

And as Jesus walked along this road with His disciples, that is how He was teaching them, - to receive His Word, and to believe it. ... Do you believe God's Word? Do you receive what He says to you? ... Sadly, these disciples had problems accepting it ... This is God's Word, and I have taken great care not to say anything it doesn't say, - I daren't add to it, and I daren't detract from it. ... How you receive this Word impacts upon you, both in time and in eternity.

In every child of God, He opens our hearts and our minds to stand with every word He says, and that is how we are to have confidence in Him. ... And here is something else, - and it is very simple ... He didn't use fancy terms or hard-to-understand narrative to explain what would take place ... He simply used words each of those disciples ought to have understood ... and it all happened just as He said it would.

God's Word is not given to confuse His people. It is given to edify and make us confident in the faith. If you do not read and study it, you will not be a strong Christian, and you will run the risk of being blown about by every wind of doctrine, as Paul refers to in Eph. 4:14.

But this is God's Word, and just as we can take it literally how He described Calvary, and the events leading up to it and following it, we can also take word-for-word how He describes what He teaches us ... and right up to the events leading to His return to this world.

Remember how we began ... and the two subjects which are so precious to many of God's people, - His first coming and His second coming? ... His Word ought to be precious to every child of God ... to you, as a privileged member of His redeemed family. We ought to be studying it so we know what it is saying, and what is happening and where we are going ... and how to have confidence to live as Christians in this increasingly-confusing world ...

Were the disciples listening? ... Well, we shall see the answer in our next study, but for now, I trust *we* are ... for the way we live is the evidence we are *walking with the Saviour*. Amen.

