

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

Jesus Leads The Way

Last time...Jesus concluded a lengthy teaching on salvation – the Parable of the Goodman

This time...Jesus leads the way...the way He must go, the way we must follow

We will be in Matt 20, Mark 10, and Luke 18

Matt 20:17

v17 Jesus going up to Jerusalem:

Jesus' ministry since leaving Bethany after the raising of Lazarus from the dead
has been in Perea

The ministry in Perea happens in the final months of His ministry; we are a
matter of weeks from the end of it in Jerusalem

The time has come for Jesus to make His way to Jerusalem...to fulfill Scripture
He leads His disciples on the way

With His eyes and mind fixed on what lies ahead in Jerusalem, the Lord Who tells
His friends what He is going to do pulls His disciples apart from the others
to have a word with them

We learn more details in Mark 10:32

Mark 10:32

v32 Jesus...they:

Jesus is leading and the disciples are following...

- amazed
- afraid

How is Jesus leading, what might His countenance be?

He is looking toward Jerusalem and the completion of His ministry with resolute determination to do the Father's will

The last time He had been in Jerusalem, for the Feast of Tabernacles after His Galilean ministry and before His Perea ministry, He "steadfastly set His face to go up to Jerusalem." (Luke 9:51)

Now, in the final weeks of His ministry, for His final visit to Jerusalem, how much more so does He "steadfastly set His face"?!

Jesus is leading His disciples, and all who will follow Him, in

- His way, the way (Ps 25:4, 8-9)
- The Father's truth (Ps 25:5)
- the way everlasting (Ps 139:24b)
- the way of righteousness in the midst of the paths of judgment (Prov 8:20)
- the narrow way that leads to life that few find (Matt 7:14)

The disciples are following, amazed and afraid

Were the disciples amazed at

- Jesus' mind-blowing teaching on salvation?
 - RYR
 - camel and needle
 - Who then can be saved
 - impossible for man
 - parable of the Good Samaritan
- a sudden change of demeanor on Jesus' face?

Were the disciples afraid because

- every time they went to Jerusalem with Jesus there was danger and trouble with the Pharisees, scribes, and Sadducees?
- John 11:7-8, 16-like fear (when just got close ie to Bethany)?

Then Jesus takes them aside to tell them what is going to happen to Him in Jerusalem

And we get additional information in Luke 18:31

Luke 18:31

v31 all things that are written:

What is going to happen to Jesus in Jerusalem?

All things that are written by the prophets concerning Him will be accomplished...things that were foretold centuries prior are about to happen (they will be eyewitnesses of Scripture being fulfilled)

The Bible is absolutely unique: It gives us history in advance from the Author (God) who inhabits eternity
aka “prophecy”

The prophetic Word of God is 100% accurate in its foretelling of history and the events happen literally, just as they were written/foretold

Matt 5:17...and hundreds of prophecies will be fulfilled literally in the last week of Jesus’ ministry

Let’s go back to Matt 20 to read what those things written by the prophets are

Matt 20:18-19

v18-19 betrayed...condemn...deliver...mock...scourge...crucify...rise again:

From the very beginning of His ministry, in Nazareth and in Jerusalem, Jesus “escaped” danger because “His hour was not yet come”

But now, His hour is approaching, His time is coming to...fulfill prophetic Scripture concerning God’s Messiah and Redeemer, the Son of God Who is the Son of Man

a. betrayed to the chief priests...
by whom?

One of them, a friend of Jesus (Judas Iscariot)

Notice the corruption in Jerusalem – “chief priests”

Per the Law, there should only be one and he of the line of Aaron

But now, under the dominion of Rome, there are two –
Annas and Caiaphas, who bought the office from Rome

b. condemn Him to death...
even though He is innocent (sinless!)

- c. deliver Him to the Gentiles...
in “the times of the Gentiles”, the Romans, who alone have the
authority to execute capital punishment
Gen 49:10
- d. to mock, scourge, and crucify...
guilty of history’s greatest injustice – Jews and Gentiles

In Mark 10 – spit upon Him

In Luke 18 – spitefully entreated...violently abused

But in all 3 accounts...God gets the last word!

- e. the third day rise again...
to defeat death and to destroy him who had the power of death,
the devil

This is not the first time Jesus has told His disciples how His ministry was going
to end, it is the 4th time

1. Caesarea Philippi (Matt 16:21)
2. Mount of Transfiguration (Matt 17:9)
3. In Galilee (Matt 17:22-23)

A very important piece of information is found only in Luke 18:34

Luke 18:34

v34 they understood none of these things:

The 12 disciples, who have been with Jesus for over 3 years and have heard Him
tell them these things now for the 4th time, still do not understand.
Why not?

Was Jesus speaking a foreign language?
No

Was Jesus talking over the heads of these simple men with intellectual words?
No, His words are very clear plain-speak

The disciples did not understand how “all things that are written by the prophets”
(v32-33) could possibly happen to Jesus, Who

- healed the blind and the lame and all diseases/sicknesses
- had dominion over unclean spirits/demons
- raised people from the dead
- walked on water
- appeared in His glory to JJ&P with Moses & Elijah (about His exodus)

They did not understand (their understanding darkened) because

- how Jesus said His ministry was going to end does not match
 - their pre-conceived ideas of the end of His ministry
 - the false teachings of scribes and Pharisees
 - their will (as we shall see)
- they are not spiritually discerned
 - not yet born-again of the Spirit of God...
won't be until post-Resurrection (John 20:22)
 - are still "dead in their sin"

As a result, the meaning of Jesus' words is hid from them...not revealed to them

Then, something kinda weird...but consistent regarding the disciples...happens
It is recorded in Mark 10 and Matt 20

Matt 20:20-28

v20 mother of Zebedee's children with her sons:

Who is the "mother of Zebedee's children"?

- Matt 4:21...mother of James and John
 - Did she go with her sons when Jesus called them to be His disciples?
 - Is she following Jesus or following her sons?
- Matt 27:55-56 and John 19:25-26...the sister of Mary, who is:
 - the mother of James & Joses, Jesus' half-brothers (Matt 13:55)
 - the mother of Jesus
- Jesus' aunt
 - James and John are His cousins

Jesus' aunt and His 2 cousins/disciples come to Him wanting something from Him

Self-interest is the motive

In Mark 10:35-37,

Jesus' aunt is not mentioned, only James and John, the sons of Zebedee.
This is all their idea

"do for us whatsoever we desire...asking for a blank check from Cousin Jesus

VERY presumptuous, wanting a "Yes" from Jesus BEFORE even stating their request

Either they know they are going out on a limb with their selfish request,
Or they so want this that they bring “reinforcements”,
so they recruit their mother, Jesus’ aunt, to be their spokesperson

v21 What wilt thou:

Jesus asks, point-blank, “What do you want?”

She, His aunt...but really James and John...want special places/positions in
Jesus’ kingdom: One on the right hand and the other on the left hand
Positions closer to Jesus and “higher” than all other positions...
seats of prominence and importance

Thoughts about that

- Matt 19:28 was not enough for cousins James and John
- Their idea about the end of Jesus’ ministry (a King taking His Kingdom) and all this teaching about the kingdom of God just before going to Jerusalem is going to lead into the kingdom, right?!
- Does v18-19 sound like a King taking His kingdom?
Is that how a King is treated by His people?

v22 Ye know not what ye ask:

Jesus responds to the self-seeking request with – “ye”

He is speaking not to one (thou) but to all 3 (ye), 2 in particular

“You two do not know what you are asking.

You guys are ignorant of the Word of God, God’s foretold Plan of Redemption
of fallen man.

Are you able to

a. drink the cup that I shall drink

In Scripture, a “cup” speaks of joy or sorrow, glory or suffering

In context of v18-19, Jesus’ cup from which He shall (future tense)
drink is of sorrow and suffering

b. be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with

To be “baptized” is to be immersed

Is this baptism of suffering/judgment of God?

Luke 12:50 **I have a baptism to be baptized with; and
how am I straitened** (constrained, pressed, to
be in a strait) **till it be accomplished**

Or is this Jesus' baptism?

Matt 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto
repentance: but he that cometh after me is
mightier than I, whose shoes I am not
worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the
Holy Ghost, and *with* fire

Notice: "I am baptized with"

am, present tense (Luke 3:21-22; Luke 4:1, 14)

vs

shall, future tense (suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane
and on the Cross)

We are able:

A very bold and misplaced proclamation of self-confidence by the sons of
thunder, who know not what manner of spirit they have

Time out!

Fast Forward mere weeks in the future to Matt 26: 56
Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled

v23 Ye shall:

Still the case – you guys do not know what you are asking...or saying

Ye, both of you, shall (future tense, another prophetic word from Jesus)

a. drink indeed (no doubt about it) of My cup (suffering and sorrow)
James, the Church's 1st martyr (Acts 12:1-2)
John, repeatedly persecuted and attempted martyrdoms
Both will suffer for Jesus as Jesus was going to suffer for them

b. be baptized
suffering, same as drinking the cup
or
Acts 2 with Jesus' baptism, the baptism of the Holy Spirit upon
them to empower them to be Jesus' witnesses

But...prepared of My Father:

Nonetheless, what you request for yourselves is "over the top"
Who sits where is no man's business, it is My Father's business
It is His all-knowing, Sovereign choice

v24 when the ten heard it...indignation:

This was not a “Winning Friends and Influencing People” moment for James and John, this was an undiluted selfish moment, a power play
When the other 10 disciples heard, they erupted with indignation against the sons of Zebedee

The 12 have and will continue to jockey for position and glory in Jesus’ kingdom; they are competing with each other for glory

The 10 are infuriated with James’ and John’s attempt to manipulate Jesus and leverage “family” for their personal advantage (over them!)

Perhaps the most incensed was Peter

- the 3rd disciple of the Inner Circle, being cut out of the action by the other 2
- a business partner cut out of their proposed deal
- perhaps some insight into
 - Matt 26:31-35a
 - John 18:10-11 cut off ear of high priest’s servant in GoG

All 12 need (repeated) some very important instruction, especially given the “hour”

The 12 disciples/apostles (minus 1 plus 1) are to lead God’s new work on earth after Jesus returns to heaven

They can only lead to the extent they follow Him

They need correction and instruction in righteousness (Christ-likeness)

v25-28 princes of the Gentiles...shall not be so among you...even as the son of Man:

Jesus’ mind is on the Cross that lies before Him

The 12 disciples’ minds are on the kingdom of God and their place in it

So Jesus starts where they are (kingdom of God) but brings them to where He is (Cross)

In the kingdoms of man

The greatest/chief of the Gentiles

(in the history of Israel – times of the Gentiles)

exercise dominion (lord over) and authority over their subjects

They are like their ‘father’, the devil, the prince of this world

They are the haves, all others are the have-nots

They are the elite, all others are low-lives

They have the gold and make the rules...to get more gold

CNN, Fox News, NBC, ABC, CBS...all about the kingdoms of man

In the kingdom of God

The very opposite of the kingdoms of man!

The greatest/chief in the kingdom of God are

- the servant of all
- the least among all
Luke 9:48
- nobodies, not celebrities
2 Cor 12:11
- despised, reviled, persecuted, the filth/scum of the world
Matt 10:22-28
1 Cor 4:10-13
- helpers of the joy of others
2 Cor 1:24
- examples for others
1 Peter 5:1-3

They are like their Father, they are Christ-like...

The Son of God who became the Son of Man to offer/sacrifice

His life as an atonement for all of Adam's race

He came not to be served like the kings of the world, He came to
serve all men

Notice, the ransom paid by the Servant King is for...many

His sacrifice is absolutely sufficient to pay for all the sins of all men of all
time

He is the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world

But His sacrifice is effective (sins removed as far as the east is from the
west, the stain of sin cleansed, made new creatures in Christ) only
for those who agree with what God has said (believe/trust)

Parable of the Goodman

Linked: "agree" and "chosen"

The union of 2 choices, God's and man's

The conversation starts with v18-19...and ends there as well

God's Plan of Redemption for fallen man

The Cross before me, the world behind me, no turning back!

Jesus leads the way...the way He must go, the way we must follow

Take-aways

1. Prophecy

History in advance, a Divine “heads up”

God telling His friends what He is going to do before He does it so they are not surprised, but are ready

Jesus is teaching that the prophetic words written that spoke of His suffering, death, and resurrection were important for His people to know

When those prophecies were fulfilled literally, just as they had been written, the Church had a sure foundation of faith, the Gospel

Acts 2:21-24

Accordingly, they could trust every word written and soon to be given regarding His 2nd Coming as King of kings...our blessed hope

So why do so many pastors teach that studying prophecy is a waste of time?

Are they speaking the words of the Holy Spirit or the words of the unholy spirit?

2. Presumption

I want You to do something for me, something in my best interest, without concern for God's best interest or the best interest of others

Jesus, my will be done...say Yes to my request before I even ask it

Not to be confused with supplication, the pouring out of our hearts

Lord please heal Monica! Charity! Jordan! Mary!

But, nonetheless, your perfect will be done

There is no place for self-interest or self-confidence in the kingdom of God

Those things must be nailed to the Cross of Jesus Christ

3. Profession – what we say and what we do

2 Cor 13:5

Do I profess/say that I am a follower of Jesus Christ?

Do I profess/act accordingly, being the servant of all?

Am I Christ-like in what I say and do?

Phil 1:6

Gal 5:17

Gal 2:20-21

Do we believe what God has said in His Word?

Do we trust that He will do what He has said He will do?

Do we agree with God...or do we doubt?

1 Peter 1:18-20

2 Peter 1:19-21