

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

Jesus' Words Must Sink Down Into Your Ears

Last Time: Jesus, PJ&J joined up with the other 9 disciples, who were in the center of a controversy involving a desperate father and his demon-possessed son: the 9 were not able to cast out the dumb demon and were attacked by the scribes

Jesus

- came to the defense of His men
- became the center of the controversy
- rebuked the
 - “faithless and perverse generation” for their unbelief (all parties)
 - disbelieving
 - double-minded and half-hearted
 - corrupting and misinterpreting (Word)
 - demon
- restored the boy to his father who cried out
“Lord, I believe! Help my unbelief!”

Jesus taught a very important lesson in faith:
mustard-seed sized faith could move Mount Hermon...
our faith is smaller than a mustard seed

Therefore, since our faith is smaller than the smallest seed,
we are not saved from the “bigger than Mount Hermon realities” of
eternal death or from the justifiable wrath of a holy offended God
by our faith, but by the faith of Christ, of which we are given

- a measure (Rom 12:3)
- the choice of where to invest it (Gen 15:6, Hab 2:4)

This time...Jesus carries on His mission to do the Father's will: His exodus that must be accomplished in Jerusalem

The disciples must come to grips with a harsh reality, they have a bitter pill to swallow

They are greatly distressed by what Jesus says next

We will be in Luke 9, Mark 9, and Matt 17

Luke 9

v43-44 amazed...wondered...sink down into your ears:

Once again, Jesus of Nazareth cast out a dumb/mute demon

When He did that back in the Galilee (Matt 12:22-37), the people were amazed and wondered if Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of David...the Messiah... since the Pharisees and scribes taught only the Messiah could cast out a dumb/mute demon

But the Pharisees and the scribes thought to themselves that He did it by the power of the princes of devils...which brought a quick and piercing rebuke from Jesus – UnPardonable Sin, generation of vipers

Now, here in the far northernmost border of the land, in Philip's capital of Caesarea Philippi, Jesus again cast out a dumb/mute demon... and again the people are amazed at the mighty power/majesty of God, wondering about all the things Jesus of Nazareth has done, and therefore Who He is and what He might do next!

On that note, as we will see in Mark's account, Jesus leads His 12 disciples away from that scene

He leaves the multitude with the false hopes of their Messiah and makes it very clear to the 12 what they should expect of God's Messiah:

“Let this settle in your ears/mind.”

Get a good grip on this!

It has been foretold and it will happen, for Matt 5:17

The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men.”

delivered = surrendered, handed over, to be imprisoned

v45 But they understood not this saying...feared to ask:

Although this is not the first time Jesus has said this...

- to all 12 in Caesarea Philippi (v22)
- with Moses and Elijah to PJ&J on Mount Hermon (v31)

the 12 disciples did not know what Jesus was talking about

- hid: had insufficient information
- perceived not: beyond their reasoning/rational thought

Imagine what the 12 are thinking, after having been eyewitnesses many times over of the power of Jesus over creation, both physical and spiritual:

How is it even possible for Jesus to be arrested and imprisoned?

Who could subdue one with the power Jesus has?

And who would even want to? For what purpose?

Good questions; what is the answer?

Only if God allowed Jesus to be delivered into the hands of men...
it was God's Plan

But, that Plan from before the foundation of the world was hid from them

- concealed, veiled
- clouded by their pre-conceived ideas and their own agendas/plans
- a mystery that makes no sense...yet
(cannot be understood with human reasoning)

Even though they did not know what Jesus was talking about (again!),
they feared to ask any questions

Why not ask?

Was Jesus' severe rebuke of Peter (Matt 16:23) still ringing in their ears?
Were they too prideful to say "I don't know", afraid to look stupid
to Jesus or to each other?

Mark 9

v30 they departed thence:

Jesus and His 12 disciples leave

- the amazed and wondering multitude (Luke 9:43)
- Caesarea Philippi and Mount Hermon (places of revelation)
- the scribes and their harassment

They are headed to Capernaum, passing through Galilee
(governed by Herod Antipas)

Jesus has determined that they will go undetected...no persons or crowds,
so He can focus on the 12 and the 12 can focus on Him

"He would not that any man should know"

In this fore-warned time of deception before Jesus returns to the clouds
for His Bride and then to the earth as Judge,
permit me to take a brief rabbit trail...
a warning about our faithless and perverse generation

What is the Biblical definition (Creator's definition) of "man"?

- creature created in the image of God
- male and female created He them

God and the image of God are under attack in the world today...
even in "falling away" Christianity

Gender-neutral Bible translations (of very precise Hebrew and Greek)

- Christian Standard Bible
- 1984 and 2011 editions of NIV

Out of political correctness to not offend feminists (and to make money)

- "father" to "parent"
- "son" to "child"
- "brother" as "brother or sister"
- "man" to "mortal," "human," "humanity," "human kind," "people," "persons," and "ones."
- "Men of Israel" to "fellow Israelites;"
- When discussing Jesus' incarnation, the "likeness of men" to "likeness of humanity."

WARNING: Such "scholarship" judges, changes, conceals (Job 6:10b) the Word of God, subjugating it to a philosophy of man
Political Correctness corrupts and misinterprets, does violence to, the Word of God and undermines the integrity of Scripture.

Why Jesus so intent on focusing on the 12 and the 12 focusing on Him?

v31 delivered...kill...rise the third day:

Because, in keeping with Amos 3:7

Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but He reveals His secret unto His servants the prophets,

they need to be crystal clear on God's Plan of Redemption, accomplished by His Messiah, the Kinsman-Redeemer of Adam's fallen race

Repeating what He revealed at Caesarea Philippi,

He, the Son of Man, Who is the Son of God,

will be surrendered/handed over into the hands of (hostile) men, who will kill Him (this cannot be misunderstood or misinterpreted) but, after 3 days in the grave, He will rise again

In other words

- Life triumphs over death...as promised (Rom 15:8, Acts 26:6-8)
- God gets the Last Word...as should be expected (Matt 24:35)
- God's Plan is accomplished, not man's...to which man must submit

This is what the 12 need to know, this is what they are to expect of their Master,
God's Messiah
And this is absolutely NOT their expectation for their Messiah

v32 understood not...afraid to ask:

This plan moving forward is far outside their capacity of human reasoning,
even PJ&Js who had benefit of an ultra-powerful delivery of this lesson.
Therefore, faith is required...and they were not believing

Rom 10:17 (Jesus is the Living Word, faith comes by Him)
God's way and God's Word cannot be understood and then believed...
it must be believed and then it will be understood

But all of them were too afraid to ask Jesus to elaborate on this mind-blowing
doctrine/teaching, this harsh reality in the Plan of God

Why is that?

Did Jesus' countenance and tone of voice discourage questions?
Did they really not want to hear His answers to their questions? (La la la)
Is the rebuke of Matt 17:20 still ringing in their ears?

And, of course, Jesus knew they did not understand and were too afraid to ask any
questions...

But He did not elaborate or answer their unasked questions
He lets His words percolate and sink down into their ears/minds
Understanding and answers will come in due time

Matt 17

v22-23 abode in Galilee...betrayed...exceeding sorry:

"abode in" means "return to"

In Mark 9:31 and Luke 9:44, "delivered" which means surrendered or
handed over to be imprisoned"

Here, "betrayed", surrendered/ handed over to be imprisoned, implying
by a friend vs a foe

Yet in all 3 accounts, the same Greek word

The meaning is the same for all three accounts..."delivered" or "betrayed"
It is a "dagger" of a Greek word in the Gospel written to the Jews

In Mark and Luke, the 12 feared or were afraid to ask Jesus about His saying
Here, the 12 are exceeding sorry...distressed, grieved, vexed

When Jesus spoke of God's Plan in Caesarea Philippi (Ch 16:21),
they were indignant
Now, they are heart-broken and confused, severely bummed out, devastated

Jesus is focusing His 12 disciples not on the amazing things He has done
(as were the multitude),
but on God's amazing plan to search for and rescue lost (dead in sin) man

How did the disciples react to God's Plan?
They were exceedingly distressed because they neither understood nor believed

God's Rescue Plan was, and is, met with exceeding distress by those in distress
One who is lost (in bondage to the power of death) must

- be willing to be found to be rescued...willing to invest faith in Jesus
- abandon everything (all other options) in order to be found and rescued, clinging only to the Rescuer Who is clinging to them... unconditional trust

As does one when rescued by the Coast Guard from a sinking ship in violent seas

The 12 do not understand and are greatly distressed, still clinging on to their pre-conceived ideas, doctrines, traditions, philosophies and to their own agendas and plans

Application

What about us?

Are we greatly distressed, grieved, vexed, heart-broken, severely bummed out, devastated about a harsh reality, a situation/circumstance in our lives or in the world today that we cannot understand?

Loved ones for whom we pray fervently and believing, yet "nothing has happened"

Charity...PTL for many miracles, yet still afflicted

Jordan...PTL for many miracles, yet still afflicted

Prodigal children...unsaved children

The 2M abandoned children in Egypt

The relentless and merciless murder of over 2500 innocent children every day in USA?
The moral and spiritual perversions of the world in these Days of Noah and Days of Lot

The apostasy/great falling away from the faith of so many Christians, even evangelicals,
and the many false gospels that make man the center when only Jesus is the center

Raging fires of racism and inflammatory political divisiveness in our country
War drums with hostile nations with nuclear weapons (Russia, Iran, NK, China)

Do we understand what God is doing in these (temporary!) situations/circumstances?
Is His plan hidden from us? (We want the details, don't we?)
Does this upset and distress us?

Are we, in our lack of understanding and in our great distress, still clinging to our
pre-conceived ideas, pet doctrines, traditions, philosophies, and agendas/plans?
Are we afraid to let go of everything and submit to the Sovereign and Almighty God?

As we leave the 12 disciples at this point, they are filled with fear and distress...
the human condition in a world corrupted by sin and cursed by God
As we leave Jesus at this point, and at every point, He has faith and peace...
gifts of God to transform the human condition

If we stay with the 12, we have no hope, no faith/confidence/trust/certainty
If we stay with Jesus, we have hope/faith/confidence/trust/certainty

We may not have understanding...but we can have hope/confidence/faith in a good God

Rom 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye
may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Consider Job, who knew more suffering than any mere man

Job 2:9-10

Job 9:1-15

- v2 How can we be just/right with the holy and pure God?
- v3 His wisdom is FAR above ours
- v4 His strength is FAR greater than ours; who can fight Him and win?
- v5 He can move mountains (Matt 17:20), we cannot
- v8 He can walk on water, we cannot
- v10 we don't know "the half of it"
- v11 He walks right by us and we have no idea/clue
- v12 He gives, He takes (Ch 1:22-23), who can argue or challenge?
- v15 the wise man will keep his peace, let his words be few (Eccl 5:2)

Consider the Jews, who have known more suffering than any other people

Rom 11:25-36

- v25 blinded in part until we Gentiles come into a right relationship
- v27 the New Covenant, God's promise to them: their sin forgiven
- v28 God loves them with an everlasting love
- v29 their calling remains and will be fulfilled
- v33 no human mind can possibly understand what God is doing
- v34 whose counsel/opinion does God seek?
- v35 what does God owe anyone?
- v36 Jesus Christ is the center of all things for good, no man is

With Scripture to comfort us, we can by faith accept, come to grips with, the facts that we

- do not know what God is doing
- cannot know what God is doing
- need not know what God is doing
- need to know only Him
 - Who does know what He is doing
 - Who did for us what we could never do for ourselves –
rescue us from death and from the wrath of God, to raise us from the dead
 - Heb 2:14-15
 - Is 53
 - 1 Cor 2:1-8...wisdom of God, mystery, hidden, “Whoops!”
- can ask questions until we are blue in the face and He will give no further explanations (Job never heard Why)
- rejoice in the Lord always (without complete knowledge)

Therefore, can we pour out our grieving, distressed hearts, making our requests known to God (Who already knows, and to a depth we will never know) and receive by faith the peace of God that passes all understanding (human reasoning) and keeps/preserves our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus?

Can we rejoice in the certainty that God gets the Last Word?
Can we relinquish our insistence in having the last word?

The joy of the Lord (transcends temporary circumstances) is our strength

Will we unconditionally embrace God’s Plan, now and not when we completely understand it?
Can we lay down our agenda/expectation for God, as Israel was exhorted to (Jer 29:11-14a)?

Is Jesus Christ sufficient for us?
Can we rest in Him in every (temporary!!) situation/circumstance?
2 Cor 12:9-10
Is 55:8-11 and we who are in Him, with Him

Let’s wait patiently/endure until understanding and answers come in their due time
Let’s follow the Son of God as commanded by the Father (Matt 17:5)
Let’s follow Jesus as He commanded? (Matt 16:24-25)

Let us be distressed, grieved, vexed...but let us endure to the end and let us preach grace and righteousness to a wicked and perverse generation, to the very end

If on your heart to witness to someone this week, come for prayer
Ramy testimony from NYC of new 2017 car not starting until Muslim asked to accept Jesus