

Luke 18:31-34
May 10, 2020

Open with Prayer

HOOK:

Q: How do you think Jesus has prepared you to face the harder things that come your way? [Let people engage]

Transition: Our opening text brings us to Jesus who takes aside his 12 disciples to **prepare** his disciples of what is getting ready to happen once they get to Jerusalem for the Passover. Jesus knows what's getting ready to happen, but the disciples don't. What makes this text interesting is that Jesus chooses to predict his death and resurrection in the third person, and it just goes over their head *because it was hidden from them!* Let's go ahead and read this short text. Let's begin.

BOOK:

Jesus Again Predicts His Death

³¹ Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. ³² He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. ³³ On the third day he will rise again."

³⁴ The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.

Process Observations/Questions:

Q: Before we begin with our standard process question, let's noodle this from two different vantage points. First, why do you think Jesus thought it was important to predict his death and resurrection in the 3rd person? [Let people engage]

Q: Second, why do you think the meaning of Jesus's prediction was "hidden" from the disciples? Did Jesus not want them to understand it? [Let people engage]

A: They expected Messiah to be a king, who would defeat Israel's enemies and establish His kingdom. Their minds were so filled with thoughts of a temporal deliverer who would rescue them from the yoke of Rome, and set up the kingdom immediately, that they refused to entertain any other program. They were looking for a coronation, not a crucifixion; for a messiah who killed His enemies, not one who was killed by His own people. The idea of a crucified Messiah was an absurdity to them. It was so ridiculous that they could not even comprehend it. "The word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing," wrote Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:18. Thus "Christ crucified" was "to Jews a stumbling block" (1 Cor 1:23); a massive barrier that they could not get past.

Q: What did you most like about this passage? What resonated with you? [Let people engage]

Q: What did you least like about this passage? [Let people engage]

Q: What did you find in this passage that you didn't understand? [Let people engage]

Q: What do we learn about Jesus in this passage? [Let people engage]

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LOOK:

Luke 18 invites us to persist in faith and prayer, maintain a childlike attitude of trust and hope, and give up our trust in possessions and wealth for the true hope in Jesus. Such a life of persistent faith will result in rewards here and hereafter.

Close in Prayer

Commentaries for Today's Lesson:

Martin, J. A. (1985). Isaiah. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 251)

f. Jesus' teaching about His resurrection (18:31–34) (Matt. 20:17–19; Mark 10:32–34).

18:31–34. Each time **Jesus ... told** His followers about what would happen to Him in **Jerusalem**, He got more explicit. At this point He laid out the events which would come to pass. He clearly stated the involvement of **Gentiles** in His trial and death. This was important because Luke did not want his readers to think that the Gentiles were guiltless in Jesus' death. The whole world was guilty of the death of the Savior. But **the disciples** could **not** comprehend any of this. They still thought the kingdom would come almost immediately. So **they did not know what He was talking about.**

Cabal, T., Brand, C. O., Clendenen, E. R., Copan, P., Moreland, J. P., & Powell, D. (2007). *The Apologetics Study Bible: Real Questions, Straight Answers, Stronger Faith* (pp. 1550-1551). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

18:31–33 Jesus probably had in mind at least Is 52:13–53:12. Evidence that some first-century Jews understood this passage as a reference to the Messiah is disputed, but the links in Isaiah's "servant songs" to the Davidic messianism of Is 11 justify such a reading. Other passages possibly alluded to by Jesus include Ps 22 and 118:22, Is 50:4–9, and Dn 9:26. ("Prophets" could be used broadly to refer to any in the OT who prophesied.)

18:34 Though Jesus' original disciples were privileged insiders to Jesus' teaching and significance (Mk 4:11), only after the resurrection did they understand the full significance of His death (Jn 2:22). Such a concept did not easily fit their notions of the messianic victory (Mk 8:31–33).

Butler, T. C. (2000). *Luke* (Vol. 3, pp. 301–302). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

E. Dedication to the Cross: A Call Not Yet Understood (18:31–34)

SUPPORTING IDEA: *Jesus illustrates kingdom living and fulfills God's plan as he walks to Jerusalem to fulfill Scripture. In Jerusalem he will be rejected, betrayed, mocked, insulted, beaten, crucified, and resurrected.*

18:31. Again, Jesus turned attention from the crowds and opponents to the disciples. They must know that he knew what was happening as he approached Jerusalem. He had begun to tell them about this before (9:22, 44–45; 12:50; 13:32–34; 17:25). First, he gave an affirmation. The entire Old Testament prepared the way for him. Everything written in Scripture about him would take place. This appeared to be a reassuring statement, but it turned out to be just the opposite.

18:32–33. What did Scripture say about Jesus, the Son of Man? Enemy Gentiles would take control of him. They would ridicule and mock him, insult him, spit on him, and beat him. Then they would kill him (see Isa. 50:6; 52:13–53:12; Dan. 7:13; Zeph. 3:11–12; Pss. 2; 94:2–7).

18:34. Repeated passion predictions by Jesus did not penetrate the dense, stubborn predispositions of the disciples. They knew the definition of Messiah, kingdom, and salvation/deliverance. They knew Scripture's teaching on God's restoration of Israel's rule. That

death could come before the kingdom reigned in Jerusalem just did not compute in their brains. God was not yet ready for them to grasp all this, so he hid it from them. He was able to hide it because they were in no condition to grasp it. Here we see the connection between the electing, choosing work of God in carrying out his plan in his time and the free operation of the disciples' will as they hung on to old ideas and could not grasp Jesus' radically new teaching. The day would come when the disciples would turn the world upside down with the message of a resurrected Messiah. But at this moment they were confused about God's timing, Scripture's meaning, and their previous understandings.

The Holy Bible: New International Version. (1984). (Lk 18:31-34). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

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