

**23- The Purposes Mark 8:31-9:1; 30-32; 10:32-34**

**Mark 8:31-9:1** 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. 32 And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him. 33 But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men. 34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. 36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? 37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? 38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels. 9:1 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.

**Mark 9:30-32** And they departed thence, and passed through Galilee; and he would not that any man should know it. 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. 32 But they understood not that saying, and were afraid to ask him.

**Mark 10:32-34** 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.

We now enter into the second phase of our outline of Mark. You will recall that **Mark 10:45** says, *For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.* The first almost eight chapters of Mark have been devoted to giving us a picture of the one who came to serve. In the next several chapters we will develop the last part of the verse, He came to die. Luke tells us in **Luke 9:51 ESV** *When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.* The HCSB says, *When the days were coming to a close for Him to be taken up, He determined to journey to Jerusalem. Luke 9:51 HCSB*

The disciples thought it was a suicide mission and wondered if they also would be killed by being with Him. They still were struggling, as we will see in this session, to understand that His purpose was to die, to give His life a ransom for many.

**I- The Purpose:**

**Mark 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. 32 And he spake that saying openly.

Jesus, as the prophet, foretold of the coming sacrifice that He would endure. He would be rejected by Israel's elders, notably the Sadducees and Pharisees who make up the Sanhedrin. This rejection ground work had already begun to be laid; the plot was already beginning to be hatched. Remember back in **Mark 3:6** *And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him.* Now Jesus speaks in very direct and plain language about the upcoming events He and even they were headed toward.

Some today will teach that the purpose of Jesus is to make us healthy, wealthy and happy. If we look at the originally followers of Jesus only one of these flesh out. As a matter of fact for a long time it was dangerous to be His follower and in many parts of the world it is today. As we have to do is look at the originally purpose of Him coming and see it was for redemption from this world and the point He kept trying to make to the disciples was this world was not, and still is not, His kingdom.

The reason this type of thought was prevalent in all ages, the disciples as well as ours is wrapped up in our nature of wanting to win and succeed. Charles Swindoll said the following:

Maybe we should confess that one reason we find it so hard to set selfishness aside and adopt the spirit of a servant is that we're driven by dreams of success. We want to be winners.

As the Executive's Digest once reported, "The trouble with success is that the formula is the same as the one for a nervous breakdown."

And what formula is that? Work longer hours, push ahead, let nothing hinder your quest—not your marriage or family, not your convictions or conscience, not your health or friends. Be aggressive and, if necessary, mean, as you press toward the top. You gotta be smart, slick, and sly if success is the bottom line of your agenda. It's the same old fortune-fame-power-pleasure line we've been fed for decades. *Day by Day, Charles Swindoll, July 2005, Thomas Nelson, inc., Nashville, Tennessee.*

Swindoll's point was that thinking like a servant is hard because of these pressures today. I remind us that the disciples jostled for position in the kingdom they thought would be on earth.

Jesus also foretold how he would be tried and killed but He also gave us the greatest hope in that He would rise on the third day. He told them about the resurrection but they did not catch what He said, as you may know by evidences to their reaction after His death. They did not anticipate the resurrection.

**Mark 10:45** For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

## II- The Rebukes:

Just how much the disciples had yet to understand is evidenced when Peter rebukes Jesus for "talking like that," as we might say. **Mark 8:32b** ...*And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him.*

Jesus was beginning to prepare them for what was coming. He is facing the cross in a little while. *Robertson's Word Pictures* says this was about six months before He died in the parallel passage of Matthew 16

So why did Peter rebuke Him? Jesus had spoken so plainly that there was no doubt of what He said. These words of death and suffering were not what they wanted to hear. Peter had taken Jesus off to the side, as we would say, and rebuked Him.

The rebuke of Peter by Jesus is in fact a rebuke of the evil one who was blinding Peter.

**Mark 8:33** *But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.*

Jesus turned to and addressed not only Peter but the whole group. Kenneth Wuest in *Wuest's Word Studies* says the following about this rebuke.

It was an agonizing cry, for Jesus recognized a repetition of the temptation of Satan when the latter said to Him, after he had shown Him the great Roman empire, "These things, all of them, I will give to you, if having fallen down, you will worship me" (Matt. 4:9). ...Notice the bargaining power of the Devil. It was a temptation to go around the Cross and receive the rulership of the world empire from the hands of Satan, the price, the worship of him. Here was Satan again, using the foremost of the disciples, to tempt our Lord to go around the Cross. It is the opinion of the present writer that our Lord did not call Peter, Satan, but that, recognizing the source, He spoke directly to the Tempter, including Peter in the rebuke. Since Satan is incorrigible, he could not be brought to repentance... Our Lord, in His utterance, brands Peter's words as Satanic.

## III- Our Purpose

**1- Take up our Cross-** **Mark 8:34** *And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

Deny self, here we go again with that servanthood mentality; getting self out of the way. Taking up the cross and follow means taking the same road as the one before. May I be so bold to suggest serving others here?

**2- Giving our Lives-** **Mark 8:35** *For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.*

Notice it says for the gospel sake we are even called to give our live, this does not mean death but life. We are not called necessarily to be martyrs but living epistles.

We are reminded that the reward is far greater than owning, ruling the entire world. A little bit of Heaven will be greater than this whole blue planet. **Mark 8:36** *For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? 37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?* We would exchange everything my friend.

**3- Not be Ashamed of Christ-** Notice **Mark 8:38** *Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.* This can be seen in light of the fact that Peter, the one who rebuked Christ, would be the one to deny Him, recorded for forcefully, in the future. He was preparing them for His death and all the things that would surround it.

He also gave them hope beyond the death. **Mark 9:1** *And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.* Sure He was going to die but that would not be the end. The resurrection was the start of the power of God displayed.

## IV- Fear of the Unknown:

Many times the disciples emotions are displayed; Mark gives us their emotions, that mirror ours so well. Fear of the future, fear of the unknown and then not asking do we can know the answer. Notice the disciples did not understand but were afraid to ask.

**Mark 9:30-32** *And they departed thence, and passed through Galilee; and he would not that any man should know it. 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. 32 But they understood not that saying, and were afraid to ask him.*

Jesus is again teaching about His purpose was to die and they did not understand but fear kept them from asking. When we do not know a spiritual truth we should not allow fear, placed in our path by the enemy, to impede us. Perfect love cast out fear, and beloved Christ wants us to know about what He had done for us, after all that was His purpose.

## V- To Jerusalem:

We move forward to the time of Jesus going up to Jerusalem. Death is coming soon now and His purpose is stated again the same, to suffer and die. **Mark 10:32-34** *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.*

The message was the same in all three of the passages. He suffered and died, according to the plan of God for our sins. Our purpose is wrapped up in His purpose.