

The Gospel According to Mark - Not What They Expected

Not What They Expected **Mark 8:31-33**

The lyrics of the song we just sang spell out the very things that caught the disciples by surprise! They didn't see it coming, they didn't expect it, they were shocked by it! What am I talking about? The cost of our adoption! "By Your blood I've been adopted!" Let's pray and ask God to help us realize just how much He was willing to pay for our salvation, our redemption, our adoption into the family of God! Let's pray!

As we begin today, I want us to review our text from last week. Remember the importance of understanding the context of a passage of Scripture? Mark 8:27-30...

Mark 8:27 Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

Mark 8:28 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

Mark 8:29 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ."

Mark 8:30 Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

Elton Trueblood, one of my favorite theologians of all time said this...

"In consideration of their weakness, Jesus maintained a certain reserve respecting His sufferings, till their faith in Him as the Christ should have become sufficiently rooted to stand the strain of the storm soon to be raised by a most unexpected, unwelcome, and incomprehensible announcement. Only after hearing Peter's confession was He satisfied that the strength necessary for enduring the trial had been attained."

Now to our text for today, Mark 8:31-33, and it was definitely...

Not what they expected!

Mark 8:31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

Mark 8:32 He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

Mark 8:33 But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

What Did They Expect?

They believed the true Messiah would bring about the...

"Return of Israel to it's former Glory and Power"

We find this in Old Testament. Passages like Daniel 7:13ff...

Dan 7:13 "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.

Dan 7:14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Dan 7:22 . . . the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.

The disciples truly expected this to happen during their lifetime! The Messiah would rule and if that were Jesus, they believed they would be joint rulers with Him. Their actions show that they continued to believe this even after Jesus told them otherwise...

Mat 20:20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

Mat 20:21 "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at

your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

What They Expected

"The Return of The King"

Jer 23:5 "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.

Jer 23:6 In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.

So they saw the part about a King! You might remember that Israel always wanted a King. They wanted an earthly King to lead them into power and international prominence and wealth and prosperity. However, they overlooked the parts about how the true Messiah King would reign wisely and do what "is just and right" and that He would be called: The LORD Our Righteousness." We're going to see in a few moments that this was one of the reasons the religious establishment had such a hard time accepting Jesus as the Messiah. How ironic the religious leaders would stumble over the righteous, doing the right thing part of the Messiah! The disciples struggled understanding the prophecies as well. We'll see some of this as we look at...

What Jesus Told Them Was Going To Happen Was Unthinkable

#1 Unthinkable: The Son of Man Must Suffer Many Things

Mark 8:31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things...

What kinds of things? Well, we know from hindsight it would be things like...

Betrayal/Denial/Rejection/Ridicule /False accusations /Beatings /A scourging
A crown of thorns /Being Spit Upon/Carrying a Heavy Cross

Being nailed to that Cross/A Sword in His Side/Baring the Sin of the World

But wait just a minute! Are we talking about Israel's coming King? Are we talking about the One who was to be the Messiah, the Savior, the One who would usher in God's Kingdom? If this is the same guy, why in the world would He have to suffer those kinds of things?

Why? Because Jesus was the suffering servant of Isaiah 53. Prophecy many had chosen to kind of overlook, because it was not what they wanted to hear! What does it say? Isaiah 53:3...

Isa 53:3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Isa 53:4 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

Isa 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Isa 53:6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

The religious leaders and the disciples had something in common. They had read the parts of the Scripture they wanted to read and had ignored the hard parts. Do we ever do that? Guilty! It's easy to read the parts about the blessings and the promises, but what about the parts that say we will sometimes go through tough times and even suffering? Of Course, Jesus promised to be with us always, and to be our strength and to meet our needs, but it is our human tendency to want to skip the hard parts. The disciples and the pharisees were no different. The fact that the coming Messiah would suffer was beyond their comprehension and while the disciples eventually understood and accepted, a majority of the religious leaders did not and that leads us to the second unthinkable thing Jesus was saying...

#2 Unthinkable: Jesus would be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law

Mark 8:31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law...

Why would the Messiah be rejected? Why would the chief priests and teachers of the law not recognize

Him?

Again, He was not what they expected!

He was from Nazareth and many were unaware that He was actually born in Bethlehem, in a stable of all places, not very kingly. He was not from a family in high position, He was born to a carpenter. But here's part of the problem: They just didn't look hard enough or they didn't want to see the truth. But it was there...

Luke 2:1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.

Luke 2:2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

Luke 2:3 And everyone went to his own town to register.

Luke 2:4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

Luke 2:5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Luke 2:6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,

Luke 2:7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

Luke 2:9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

Luke 2:10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

Luke 2:11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Why the rejection? Was there a bit of jealousy? You might remember Dr. Reggie Ogea's sermon on King Herod and his attempts to kill baby Jesus because Jesus was the One born King of the Jews, and Herod had usurped his position. Maybe one of the reasons Jesus was rejected by the religious establishment was the fact Jesus was also a Priest, but not just another priest, or an ordinary priest. The writer of Hebrews tells us this..

Heb 5:5 So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father."

Heb 5:6 And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

And what made Jesus such a much better priest than the earthly priest of His day? Maybe it was the very fact that He understood suffering and pain and had been touched by human suffering, whereas many of the priest of His day had become entrenched in power and wealth and no longer understood the common man! In fact, the writer of Hebrews once again steps in and helps us...

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.

Heb 4:16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Why the rejection

The leaders of the day had a pretty good thing going and didn't want some Messiah to come along and mess it up They had authority and control As I said, they had power and money. Listen to these words. Elton Trueblood says...

"The men who ought to have taught the people to recognize in Jesus the Lord's Anointed, would hound them on to cry, "crucify Him," and by importunities and threats urge heathen authorities to perpetrate a crime for which they had no heart. Gray-haired elders sitting in council would solemnly decide that He was worthy of death; high priests would utter oracles, that one man must die for the people, that the whole nation perish not; scribes learned in the law would use their legal knowledge to invent plausible grounds for an accusation involving capital punishment. Jesus had suffered many petty annoyances from such persons already; but the time was approaching when nothing would satisfy them but getting the object of their dislike cast forth out of the world. Alas for Israel, when her wise men, and her holy men, and her learned men, knew of no better use to make of the stone chosen of God, and precious, than thus contemptuously and wantonly to fling it away!"

Let me be so bold as to ask this question today: Have we chosen to contemptuously and wantonly fling Jesus away? It's quite easy to point fingers at the corrupt religious people of Jesus' day who would chose power, position, prestige, but what about us? Do we not have many in our world today who reject Jesus for the very same reasons? If we are honest wouldn't we say that some of the biggest obstacles for accepting Jesus as Savior for many is the fear of loosing power, position, prestige, pleasure, prosperity? The answer to this question is absolutely yes! But I want to remind each of us hear today of this truth...There's nothing you could ever give up for Jesus that's not worth loosing for the sake of knowing Jesus as your Savior, your Lord, your provider, your best friend, your hope, your coming King! I know we talked about that last week, but it's not a bad thing to be reminded, right? Paul put it this way...

Phil 3:7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

Phil 3:8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ

Phil 3:9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

Phil 3:10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

Phil 3:11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

And that takes us to the third unthinkable thing Jesus shared with His disciples...

#3 Unthinkable: Jesus was going to die.

Mark 8:31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

Jesus was going to die a literal death! He didn't just fall asleep. To the disciples the death of Jesus would be the final blow to their hopes that Jesus was truly the Messiah. I mean when you think of a King, especially The King of Kings, you don't immediately think of assassination by crucifixion. Why did He have to die? Jesus doesn't get into the details of this with His disciples at this time, but we have this insight give by the writer of Hebrews...

Heb 9:11 When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation.

Heb 9:12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

Heb 9:13 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean.

Heb 9:14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

And then we read down in verse 22 of Hebrews chapter 9...

Heb 9:22 In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Jesus had to die physically in this world, so you and I could live spiritually in eternity! Jesus had to take the punishment we deserved! Let me put it this way:

It would take us an eternity of separation from God for us to pay our sin debt and that was unacceptable to God so He made a way for our debt to be paid in full! And what was that way?

2 Cor 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

But Pastor Larry, how does that work for me? How can I have that? I'm going to tell, you in just a moment. But I need for us to look at one more thing in our text. It's something you need to see. Peter was so shocked that Jesus was talking about literally being killed this happened...

Peter Rebukes Jesus

Mark 8:32 He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

Mark 8:33 But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

What was happening here? When Jesus rebuked Peter He said, "Get behind me, Satan." He was not calling Peter Satan, He was actually speaking to Satan and his attempt to use Peter's concern for Jesus to revise the wilderness temptation to avoid the cross! Remember? Satan gave Jesus three alternatives, the stones to bread, jumping off the pinnacle of the temple, bowing down to worship Satan. That's another whole sermon, but the jest of these temptations was for Jesus to avoid the pain and suffering of the Cross and to take an easier way to get people to follow Him. That may be the way of man, but it was not the way of God!

While the disciples didn't fully understand at this point that Jesus had to be the sacrificial lamb to die for the sins of the world, they were really having a hard time accepting a suffering Messiah who had to die, and a lot of people in our world today have a hard time accepting this! Accepting that someone else would have to suffer and pay for my sins! It's really a pride thing. It's hard to accept that when it comes to my sin debt, I can't afford to pay it! It's hard to accept that someone else would have to suffer the punishment I deserve! Let me do something! Let me take care of the debt! I'll handle this, but the truth is I can't. God's Word is very clear on this!

Rom 3:20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

Rom 3:21 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

Rom 3:22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference,

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Rom 3:24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Rom 3:25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood...

So, back to the questions some of you had earlier. How can I have that? How does that work for me? How can I have the righteousness from God? The answer is actually right in the middle of what we just read...

Rom 3:22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

Jesus said this back in John's Gospel...

John 5:24 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

Romans 10:8-10 gives us more detail...

Rom 10:8 But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming:

Rom 10:9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Rom 10:10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

So here's the bottom line:

God has written a check to pay for your sin in full! Jesus signed it with His precious Blood!

The only thing you need to do is endorse the check with your confession of faith in Jesus as your personal Savior and Lord!

Rom 10:11 As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

Rom 10:12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him,

Rom 10:13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

As our praise band comes up, to lead us during this time of invitation and worship, two things: first, there are four tables set up in the corners of our auditorium. If you would like to take this time to remember the price

Jesus paid for your adoption into the family of God through His broken body and His shed blood, then you can do so by eating a piece of bread and considering the pain He endured for you, and then by drinking the cup and considering His life blood that was poured out in order to wash away your sins. Second, if you have never endorsed the salvation check God wrote and Jesus signed with His blood, I'm going to say a prayer that you could pray with me and it would be considered your endorsement and acceptance of what God has offered you today! Let's pray!

"Father God, I want to thank You for Your willingness to make such a sacrifice for me! I know I have done wrong and need Your forgiveness and Your cleansing. I confess with my mouth that You are Lord and I believe in my heart Jesus died on the old rugged cross for me and rose again on the third day! I call upon Your Name and invite You to live inside me by way of Your Holy Spirit. I want You to become a part of my life from this day forward. Thank You for Your sacrifice on my behalf. While I could never pay You back, it is my desire to live my life in such a way that will show my unending gratitude! Thank You for hearing my prayer for I pray believing in the Precious Name of Jesus, Amen!