

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #235

Jesus' Final Journey to Jerusalem Jesus Teaches About His Death for the Third Time MK 10.32-34 (Parallel Texts: MT 20.17-19; LK 18.31-34)

32 ^MThey were on their way up to Jerusalem.

Because Jesus was leading the way out in front, the disciples were in a state of astonishment, while those who followed were afraid. He took the Twelve aside again and began to tell them what was going to happen to him.

33 *"We are going up to Jerusalem, and ^Leverything that stands written by the prophets about the Son of man will be fulfilled.*

He ^Mwill be ^{MT}betrayed, ^Mby being delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, 34 who will mock him, spit on him, flog him and kill him ^{MT}by crucifying him. ^MThree days later he will rise ^{MT}to life."

^LThe disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was thoroughly hidden from them, so they did not know what he was talking about.

=====

NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	Somewhere on the Road to Jerusalem
Timeline	Late March (Month 38)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VII: Jesus' Ministry in Perea
	C. Jesus' Final Journey to Jerusalem
Title	13. Jesus Teaches About His Death the Third Time

COMMENT:

In today's reading Jesus gave his third teaching (recorded in the gospels) about his death and resurrection to the Twelve. (Note that Jesus "took the twelve aside again" from the larger entourage of 120 plus disciples who were traveling with him.) Jesus was within a week of arriving in Jerusalem to fulfill his own words, and the Scriptures.

The first time Jesus spoke of his death to the apostles was in Gentile territory at the "great confession" near Caesarea Philippi (see DJN #129), during his "Withdrawal" from Galilee. He taught about his death the second time just a few weeks later when he briefly returned to Galilee at the conclusion of his ministry there (see DJN #134). Now, almost seven months later, on the final stage of his final journey to Jerusalem, the Lord reminded the apostles again of what was about to occur at Passover in the holy city.

Jesus usually walked along with his disciples when traveling as a group. This gave him the opportunity to fellowship with them, and instruct them constantly. Full-time followers of Jesus received many hundreds of hours of private discipleship training from Jesus in this manner. However, on this final segment of the journey to Jerusalem Jesus walked ahead of the group, alone. This shocked his disciples.

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #235

The phenomenon of Jesus walking alone shows us the resolve and sense of urgency he felt. Six months earlier he had spoken of the constant sense of distress he felt until he accomplished his mission (DJN #192; LK 12.49-50). Soon after that he described his deep sorrow concerning Jerusalem (DJN #198: LK 13.31-35). After waiting his entire life, Jesus was now about ten days away from his fulfilling his life mission of becoming "the Lamb of God." Nothing could stop or deter him.

While his disciples were astonished to see their Lord striding ahead of them with the sense of passion that his body language revealed, they were also scared to death by it. They all knew he was under a death sentence, with a price on his head. Walking alone made him much easier to identify and capture. He paid no heed to that. He knew that he would die at the appointed time, in just the way the Scriptures had predicted it.

See the fearlessness and commitment of your Lord to obey his Father's word here—even at the cost of his life. He is our example in embracing his own cross with total determination and faith in his Father's plan, in spite of the personal cost to him.

APPLICATION:

Jesus' obedience unto death was an expression of pure love for his Father, and us. It is not an example of legalism and mere duty for duty's sake. Never!

How committed are you to obedience today? Are you moving ahead with total commitment to God's will that is motivated by love for Him?

As we move rapidly toward passion week in the gospel narrative, we need to stay focused on the example of personal cross-bearing that Jesus left for us.

How are you following Jesus' example of obedience unto death today? What will you say and do out of love for him, even when it is costly?