

On The Road To Jerusalem.

Mark 10:32-34.

Sunday morning, May 25, 2008.

- I. “And Jesus was going before them...” The heart and mind of the Savior.
The Lord Jesus had spent most of his earthly ministry in the Northern part of Israel, in Galilee. This was followed by the retirement ministry in the coasts of Tyre and Sidon and as far North as Caesarea-Philippi. From there they had come south, once more through Galilee, and from there on the East side of the Jordan South toward Jerusalem.

What was going on in the Mind of the Savior at this time?

- A. “He steadfastly set His face to go up to Jerusalem.” Luke 9:51.

He purposefully embraced His own suffering and death that He might redeem us and reconcile us to God; that we might once again become the children of God, adopted into His family. No one would take the Lord’s life from Him, He would lay it down of His own accord. John 10:18.

1. Here is the steadfast love of the Lord even for those who were His enemies.
2. Here is the surety of our salvation.
3. Here also is our example:

- Walking with Jesus as a disciple is to walk the road to Jerusalem

It is the road toward being made useful in the work of gathering and preserving and caring for the flock of the Lord Jesus Christ in this world.

We can not do justice to the cause of Christ unless we make it the focal point of our life’s journey. Our “Jerusalem.”

- On this road Jesus taught His disciples saying: “If anyone comes after Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.” Luke 14:26,27.

- Here He also taught them about counting the cost: “Which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it...” Luke 14:28-33.

- Where might one get enough for such a task? At the throne of grace where hearts are emboldened to this task, and taught to desire it.

- B. The reality of the cross was more and more bearing down on Him.

On this road to Jerusalem He spoke these words: “I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished.” Luke 12:50.

1. This distress would climax on the doorstep of Jerusalem in the Garden of Gethsemane.
2. This distress was only matched by his resolve and steadfastness to redeem His own whom he loved to the uttermost John 13:1.
3. This distress of soul and mind was alleviated by His strong cries and prayers in that God answered Him from the throne of grace, strengthening Him by the ministry of angels. Hebr. 5:7 Luke 22:43.

The road to Jerusalem runs through Gethsemane for us as well. It is the place where our human constitution cries out NO! to the road before us. For us it is also the place where the Lord will send help from the throne of grace.

- C. "The road to Jerusalem" is also the place where He prepared His disciples for the work He alone would do in behalf of our salvation.
1. The road to Jerusalem began when the Lord left Caesarea Philippi. Here Peter made his great confession: "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Matt 16:16. Here also Jesus began to teach them the *necessity* of his suffering and death in Jerusalem. "He began to teach them that the Son of Man *must* suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again." Mark 8:31.
 2. On the way up to Jerusalem, following the transfiguration, He taught them the certainty of His suffering, death and resurrection saying: "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed he will rise the third day." Mark 9:31
 3. Nearing Jerusalem He gives them a very detailed sevenfold description.
 - The Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes.
 - They will condemn him to death
 - Deliver Him to the Gentiles.
 - Mock Him and spit on Him.
 - Scourge him
 - Kill Him (crucify acc. to Matt.)
 - The third day He will rise again.In doing so He prepared them the best He could for what lay ahead and also He laid the groundwork for their faith following the resurrection.

II. The disciples' reaction to "going up to Jerusalem."

- A. As Jesus was going before them they were amazed, and as they followed they were afraid.
1. Amazed that the Lord would go to Jerusalem in the face of such clear danger.
 2. Afraid what might happen to them as His disciples.
- B. They understood none of these things... Luke 18:4.
1. They understood the seriousness of the situation and the danger that awaited them.
 2. They did not understand why the Lord would do such a thing nor what good it could possibly do. They did not understand the significance of His death.
 3. This lack of understanding is clearly shown in what follows:
 - The disciples clearly did not lose faith in Christ's future glory.
 - Even as the Lord was humbling Himself unto death, and the death of the cross at that, the disciples were after their own position and glory in the coming kingdom.

III. "Going up to Jerusalem."

Our Christian life journey; three ingredients:

- A. Power; "You shall receive Power..." Acts 1:8 The holy Spirit.
- B. Prayer; presenting ourselves to God before the throne of grace. Hebr. 4:16.
- C. Providence; the Lord Himself custom tailors and superintends your life's journey. Psalm 23