

“The Resurrection Predicted” Matthew 20:17-19, Sermon Notes
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“As Jesus was about to go up to Jerusalem, He took the twelve *disciples* aside by themselves, and on the way He said to them, ¹⁸“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, ¹⁹and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify *Him*, and on the third day He will be raised up.” (Matt. 20:17-19 NAU)

Introduction

Have you ever had that moment when a warning light comes on in your car?

- The first time it happens you flip out pull the car over and call a tow company
- Then the mechanic tells you it is a faulty sensor and nothing is really wrong
- So the next time the light comes on you are far less worried, right?

The more the warning is delayed the more hardened we become towards the warning lights

- We get to the point where every light is on and we say, “it’s not a problem yet.”

Oftentimes the delay in the fulfillment of warnings leads to apathy

- We start to doubt the warning, is it really going to happen?
- Is it really that bad?
- Do we really need to worry?
- Are we just blowing things out of proportion?

We also become hardened when we expect the outcome at a certain point, and the time comes and goes and nothing happens. When that occurs, our apathy grows worse

I had a friend like this in college who would consider the low gas light as a suggestion. Every time we got in the car his car was on empty. He was constantly pushing to extend the tank of gas

- The fear of having to push the car into a gas station or being stuck somewhere without a gas station was pushed further into the back of his mind the deeper the needle went into empty
- It was almost always an uncomfortable experience riding with him because you did not know what was going to happen

Sometimes we treat the warnings of scripture the same way

- God says the way of the wicked is hard and the way of the righteous brings life
- The Bible warns against sin and the consequences of sin
- The wages of sin is death

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 6:23 NAU)

- When we know the consequences of the warning and the consequences do not immediately happen, we grow hardened to the warning.
- This is the nature of sin at work within us. It gradually hardens the heart to the truth

This is what happens in our text this morning. Jesus gives his disciples a warning about his coming death and yet they still do not get it. We will look at this account and then draw some implications for ourselves.

Body

“As Jesus was about to go up to Jerusalem, He took the twelve *disciples* aside by themselves, and on the way He said to them, ¹⁸“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, ¹⁹and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify *Him*, and on the third day He will be raised up.” (Matt. 20:17-19 NAU)

Matthew records that Jesus was “about to go up to Jerusalem”

- This is kind of a confusing translation as it gives the impression that they were getting ready to leave on their trip to Jerusalem. Though the reality is that if anything they were about to enter into Jerusalem when He took them aside.
- The text indicates that he was going up to Jerusalem
- This is affirmed by the KJV, NIV, ESV, RSV etc
- I’m not sure what the intention of “about” means in the NASB translation
- Other than possibly saying they were just about to enter
- But here Jesus and His disciples are heading to Jerusalem

Mark adds a little more to the story:

“They were on the road going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking on ahead of them; and they were amazed, and those who followed were fearful. And again He took the twelve aside and began to tell them what was going to happen to Him, ³³ *saying*, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and will hand Him over to the Gentiles. ³⁴ “They will mock Him and spit on Him, and scourge Him and kill *Him*, and three days later He will rise again.” (Mk. 10:32-34 NAU)

Mark records that Jesus was out front leading the pack

- Jesus was pressing forward with resolve to Jerusalem
- He was determined
- He was courageous
- He was resolute
- He was leading the group into the danger they were about to face

John MacArthur adds:

“Mark reports that Jesus was walking ahead of the disciples and the crowd (Mark 10:32). It was as if He were a military commander going into battle at the head of his troops, bravely putting himself in the most dangerous and vulnerable position. But Jesus had no troops and no weapons, only a small

band of confused, helpless disciples and a thrill-seeking multitude that would flee at the first sign of danger." JFM pg 221

Jesus was resolute as He was heading to Jerusalem and the scene struck the others and caused them to fear and be amazed

Jesus and His disciples are heading to Jerusalem for their last time together

- They had made this journey a few times before for the Passover
- This is now their last Passover

This Passover is different because there is a dark cloud looming over their travels

They were in Judea beyond the Jordan. Matthew made this clear in 19:1-2

"When Jesus had finished these words, He departed from Galilee and came into the region of Judea beyond the Jordan;² and large crowds followed Him, and He healed them there" (Matt. 19:1-2 NAU)

But Matthew does not tell us why they are in this area. The account of what happens in Judea does not fit Matthew's narrative. He leaves these details out and instead focuses on the Rich Young Ruler and the debate with the Pharisees about Divorce and Remarriage

But John 11 fills out more of what is happening here

"Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.² It was the Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.³ So the sisters sent *word* to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."⁴ But when Jesus heard *this*, He said, "This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it."⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.⁶ So when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days *longer* in the place where He was.⁷ Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." (Jn. 11:1-7 NAU)

These events preceded Matt 19:1-2

- Jesus was ministering and news got back to him that Lazarus was sick and dying
- They needed Jesus to get there quickly and heal him
- But Jesus had a different plan. He was going to use the situation to bring glory to God
- AND illustrate the point that he is about to make to His disciples here

Now when the disciples heard that Jesus wanted to head to Judea, notice how they responded in John 11:8

The disciples said to Him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone You, and are You going there again?" (Jn. 11:8 NAU)

- The disciples knew there was hostility towards Christ
- They knew there was danger from the religious leaders
- They knew Jesus was hated and they were shocked that Jesus was heading back to Judea

"Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.¹⁰ "But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." (Jn. 11:9-10 NAU)

- Basically Jesus says this, we walk in the truth and we have nothing to fear
- While the light is shining, we are going to be fine

“This He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, so that I may awaken him out of sleep." ¹² The disciples then said to Him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep. ¹⁴ So Jesus then said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him." ¹⁶ Therefore Thomas, who is called Didymus, said to *his* fellow disciples, "Let us also go, so that we may die with Him." (Jn. 11:11-16 NAU)

Now at this point this discussion was had before they went into Judea

- The disciples believed that this trip to Judea is where Jesus was going to die and as Thomas said, “Let us also go, so that we may die with Him.”

If He is going to lay down His life, then so are we

- This kind of Bravado is nothing new
- Peter said the same thing

“But Peter said to Him, "*Even* though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away." (Matt. 26:33 NAU)

These men were confident that they were going to stand strong for Christ

- They were willing to die with Him and for Him
- They even believed that they identified where and when Jesus was going to die, on this trip to Judea to raise Lazarus

But the trip and the activities came and left

- Jesus was not stoned by the leaders
- The threat of death was over
- The disaster was averted
- The fear of death fled away like the morning dew before lunch. It is now a distant memory
- The fulfillment of Jesus’ death keeps being delayed

What happens in the heart when a warning does not play out?

- We become hardened
- We become calloused to the truth and the consequences
- We even begin to doubt the warning

Nonetheless Christ continues to warn: Even though all of this is going on behind the scenes Christ continues to warn

- Notice our text this morning

Jesus shows mercy towards his disciples in three ways:

1. He takes His disciples aside and warns them

2. He explains the source of hostility towards Him
3. He gives hope to get through the difficulty

In these ways Jesus demonstrates His mercy and kindness to His disciples as they are about to face a trial and suffering that they have not seen before

1st Jesus takes His disciples aside

“As Jesus was about to go up to Jerusalem, He took the twelve *disciples* aside by themselves, and on the way He said to them,” (Matt. 20:17 NAU)

- Jesus takes His twelve disciples aside by themselves indicates that they are traveling with a larger group
- He pulls these particular 12 aside to minister to them

He could have shared the news with all of the people along the way

- He could have warned each one about the pending doom and difficulty He was going to face

But He does not. Instead He just warns the 12

- This is an act of mercy towards these men

Christ was under no obligation to warn them

- Their knowledge of the events would not change the outcome in any way
- They did not have to know the plan for the plan to work out
- He was not sharing because they were needing to do something
- He did not need their approval for the plan nor did He ask for their insight into what was going to happen

The Warning was for their good and protection

- This was evidenced by limiting it to the 12

I am struck by this statement and act because I see it as an act of mercy of our Lord to His disciples

- I know this is a simple observation but look carefully at it
- Jesus took His 12 disciples aside
- But in it there is something that Jesus is doing for these 12 that the rest of the traveling party did not receive

We can say this was clearly for their good

- As they are going scatter later when Jesus is arrested
- But they will be drawn back together when Jesus is resurrected
- In the meantime, this information will be there to remind them, and us, that everything is under God’s control

2nd Notice that Jesus explains the source of the Hostility

“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death,” (Matt. 20:18 NAU)

“and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify *Him*, . . .” (Matt. 20:19 NAU)

First, the source is the religious leaders

Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, is going to go to Jerusalem, suffer, be killed, and then raised on the third day

This is unthinkable revelation. This is knowledge which would stun the hearer

Their love for Christ would have made this knowledge unthinkable

- Perfect teacher
- Powerful teacher
- Model of behavior
- The kind of man that even the winds obey Him
 - Stunning power
- The demons tremble at His presence
- Opponents are baffled by His wisdom
- The broken and distressed are comforted by His gentleness and mercy

So when Christ reveals this tragic news you can immediately understand the shock of the disciples

They did not understand a suffering Messiah

- When thinking about the Messiah Israel did not understand that **first** the messiah would come to suffer.
- They expected a conquering hero
- They expected a political leader
- They expected one who was going to triumph over His enemies and bring all things back into submission to God
- They expected the rebuilding and reestablishing of the nation of Israel

They did not comprehend Isaiah 53 being literally fulfilled

Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

Even the message would be hard to accept. The question, asked rhetorically, who has believed our message?

“For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of parched ground; He has no *stately* form or majesty That we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. ³ He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. ⁴ Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted”

He went to the cross rejected and the people of God thought it was because of some fault in Him that God was turning away from Him

⁵ But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. ⁶ All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him. ⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth

As the text indicates He went to the cross for our sins. Clearly in this context it is for the nation of Israel. But we know from the teaching of the NT that it was for our sins also

(Isa. 53:1-7 NAS)

Jesus was telling them exactly how this section of scripture was going to play out historically. He explained to His disciples what was going to happen

As JC Ryle rightly said:

- “They thought so much of the Messiah’s crown that they lost sight of His cross.” Pg 199 JC Ryle

Most certainly the disciples would not expect that Christ would die

- And most certainly not at the hands of the religious leaders though they might by this time be growing more suspicious

This was unthinkable

- Because of who Christ was
- Why would God allow a good man, a godly man, to suffer?
- Who would get away with something so dastardly evil?
- It is cowardly act. The murder of Christ is a purely evil and selfish work of godless men

But here is what you must see, this was according to God’s plan. As Jesus said earlier in Matthew 16

“From that time Jesus Christ began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day” (Matt. 16:21 NAS)

4 statements here which make up His teaching:

1. Must go to Jerusalem

He began to demonstrate that He must go to Jerusalem

It is quite possible that He opened up Isa 53 and started to explain it to them

- He may have used the evidences of the circumstances that Matthew has already recorded
 - The confrontation in the Synagogue in Matt 12
 - The rejection of the religious leaders in Chapter 15
 - The testing from the religious leaders in Chapter 16

2. Suffer Many things

“and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes”

This may be as shocking as the news of His death

- The religious leaders would cause Christ to suffer?
- They would be the cause of great suffering for Christ

The Elders – refers to the Sanhedrin which was the ruling group of leaders

The Chief Priests – these are the ones who lead the services and sacrifices

The scribes – the lawyers and debaters of the day

The whole religious forces is going to be against Christ

3. Be Killed

They are going to prevail on Christ and kill Him.

- He was going to Jerusalem knowing that He was going to die
- There was no question what was going to take place

In fact, this news is so shocking and Jesus reiterates it again just before they enter into Jerusalem.
Matt 20

And as Jesus was about to go up to Jerusalem, He took the twelve *disciples* aside by themselves, and on the way He said to them,¹⁸ "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death,¹⁹ and will deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify *Him*, and on the third day He will be raised up." (Matt. 20:17-19 NAS)

Matt 20 is likely 6 months to a year later from our verses here in Matthew 16

- Time passed could have dulled the impact of this statement so Christ makes it again as we see recorded in Matthew 20

So those who are hostile towards Christ are the religious leaders. BUT let us not stop there. The Gentiles are also complicit in the death of Christ. Some make a big deal about how the Jews killed Jesus. Well before we Gentiles pick up stones or grab bats notice that the Gentiles were complicit

“and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify *Him*, and on the third day He will be raised up.” (Matt. 20:19 NAU)

- Yes the Jews will find a disciple to turn on Him
- Yes, they will have Him arrested
- Yes, they will take Jesus to court and condemn Him
- But it is the Gentiles who mock Him and ultimately carry out the punishment
- The point is all are guilty. Jew and Gentile. We are in this guilt together. We share in the guilt

Thirdly, Jesus gives Hope to His disciples:

4. Be Raised up

“and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify *Him*, and on the third day He will be raised up.” (Matt. 20:19 NAU)

With all the news of suffering and death there is hope

- Jesus has been telling this to His disciples
- I will die but I will also be raised on the 3rd day
- The promise of the resurrection always hovers around the news of Jesus’ death

The First recorded explanation of Jesus’ death in Matthew’s gospel follows the same pattern:

“From that time Jesus Christ began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day” (Matt. 16:21 NAS)

Yet while all this is going to take place it is going to have a purpose

- The last news is not that Jesus is going to die but rather that He will rise again on the third day
- The sign of Jonah the Prophet will be given to the people to demonstrate beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus Christ is indeed the Son of God, the Messiah

Even in the bad news there is good news. God will overcome

The warning to the disciples was there to encourage them to endure through the difficulty they were about to face

- These warnings were given to protect them
- These warnings were given as an act of mercy and grace to them
- These warnings are wrapped in hope. God is going to overcome

Conclusion

Now with all these warnings and the necessity of these events which had to take place, the disciples still did not get it.

- All the ways Christ warned; All the times He sought to help them; All the revelation of what was to come was met with resistance
- Luke records:

“Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished.³² “For He will be handed over to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and mistreated and spit upon,³³ and

after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again." (Lk. 18:31-33 NAU)

"But the disciples understood none of these things, and *the meaning of* this statement was hidden from them, and they did not comprehend the things that were said." (Lk. 18:34 NAU)

Warning after warning came to them:

"From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day." (Matt. 16:21 NAU)

"And while they were gathering together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men; ²³ and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day." And they were deeply grieved" (Matt. 17:22-23 NAU)

Now here in Matt 20:17-19

One more warning will be given just a day to two days before the events unfold

"You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man is *to be* handed over for crucifixion." (Matt. 26:2 NAU)

God is faithful to warn and He gives His warnings over and over again. Because He is patient with His judgment or He does not bring His judgment in our timing, does not mean that He will not judge

- The disciples did not want the news to be true but it was true

This is often how we treat the warnings of scripture. We do not want them to be true and if God is slow to deliver then we ignore them

I think the disciples did not comprehend the words of Jesus because they could not fathom the events happening

- So even though God spoke revelation to them they were not ready to hear it

Well friends we have to think carefully and ask ourselves some important questions. Do we not like the warnings God makes in His word about certain actions?

- God says:

"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹ Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. ¹⁰ So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith." (Gal. 6:7-10 NAU)

- We are tempted to doubt verses like this because God does not bring immediate judgment
- When these warnings are a mercy to us to protect us

Listen we should view the hearing of God's Word as an act of mercy when God makes His path clear to us

When God takes the time to explain in His Word what is right and wrong, we should see it as the act of mercy that it is

- Just as the disciples received mercy when Jesus took them aside and shared what was about to happen so to we receive mercy when we open the scriptures and find God's ways

Let us not be like the disciples and harden our hearts if God is slow to bring judgment. When He is patient let us not grow weary in doing good

- Let us not become calloused when God's judgments, curses, or promises do not come in the packages we expect

Let us be convinced of this, if God has taken the time to communicate to us then the issue is not if it will come to pass but when

- Let us be convinced that what God has said is true and he will not mislead us in any way

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