

Luke 18:31-34

Introduction: This event takes place in March 33 AD. Jesus has slightly more than one week before His crucifixion. This is the third time Jesus clearly foretells His death and resurrection (cf. Luke 9:22-27; Mark 9:30-32). He progressively gives a little more information. Luke has recorded various hints as well (9:44-45; 12:49-50; 13:32-33; 17:25). This time He does so privately to the Twelve.

- 1) Jesus reminds the 12 of the accuracy and authority of the Scriptures—18:31 ³¹
And having taken the twelve aside He said to them,
 - Remember the emotional state of His followers as described in Mark 10:32.
 - a) Location—*“Look, we are going up to Jerusalem,*
 - b) Completeness—*and all the things that are written through (the agency of) the prophets about the Son of Man will be completed (by God).*
 - i) Jesus lives His life by God’s design as recorded in the Scriptures. God has a task for Jesus, and Jesus is prepared to complete it. (Bock)
 - ii) Jesus’s suffering and death does not come as a surprise to Him. Thus He suffers willingly and knowingly. This is no accident. (Bock)
 - iii) The Jewish division of the Prophets included:
 - (1) The **Former** Prophets: Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings
 - (2) The **Latter** Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, the Minor Prophets (excludes Daniel)
- 2) Jesus explains four aspects of what “all the things that are written about the Son of Man” really means—18:32-33
 - NB, the first four verbs are passive, the 5th and 6th are active, and the 7th is middle voice.
 - a) His apparent defeat—18:32-33a (cf. Is. 49:1-4; 50:4-9; 52:13-53:12; Zech. 11:13; 12:10; 13:7)
 - i) His betrayal and arrest—18:32a ³² *For He will be ① handed over [paradidomi] to the Gentiles,*
 - (1) Luke apparently wants Theophilus to remember that it wasn’t just the Jews who were guilty before God.
 - ii) His shocking mistreatment while in custody—18:32b *and ...*
 - (1) Mocking laughter—*He will be ② ridiculed [empaizo],*
 - (2) Abusive humiliation—*and ③ insulted [hubrizo],*
 - (3) Extreme contempt—*and ④ spat upon [emptuo].*
 - iii) His violent murder—18:33a ³³ *Then, after they have ⑤ whipped [mastigoo] Him, they will ⑥ kill [apokteino] Him.*
 - b) His guaranteed victory—18:33b *And on the third day He will ⑦ rise again [anistemi].”* (Is. 53:10-12)
 - i) The Geneva Bible (1599) has a note here: “As sure and certain as persecution is, so sure is the glory which remains for the conquerors.”
 - c) These events are detailed in the chapters to follow.

- 3) Luke reminds us of understanding things in God's time—18:34
- a) What was the problem?
 - i) ³⁴ *And **they** (emphatic) understood [*suniemi*] none of these things,*
 - ii) *and this saying was hidden [*krupto*] from them (by God),*
 - iii) *and they did not comprehend [*ginosko*] the things that were said.*
 - b) This was not the fault of Jesus' teaching ability, nor of their hearing ability.
 - i) **GENERAL** thoughts on their misunderstanding
 - (1) Even the Twelve, slightly more than one week before the actual events, did not comprehend Jesus's detailed prediction.
 - (2) In one sense Jesus enters this time of shame and suffering all alone, since the Twelve do not fully comprehend the Scriptures to offer Him any support. (Bock)
 - (3) Aren't you thankful God doesn't reveal all the details of our lives ahead of time? We would quit, or get discouraged, or get angry, etc. God wisely and lovingly conceals until He has prepared us to go through the event.
 - ii) **SPECIFIC** possible causes for their misunderstanding
 - (1) They could not comprehend how a suffering Messiah could fit into God's plan.
 - (2) It is evident that they were still self-focused, as recorded in Matt. 20:20-28/Mark 10:35-45 as the next event in Jesus's life.
 - (a) This is one of the root causes of much misunderstanding of various sermons given by pastors. People's thoughts are focused elsewhere and they are unable to listen to what is actually being said.
 - c) Jesus, in His wisdom and grace will eventually explain what He meant (Luke 24:32, 45-48)
 - i) Once the disciples understand this plan, they will preach it across the Roman Empire, as the book of Acts demonstrates.
 - ii) See especially the prayer recorded in Acts 4:24-31.
- 4) Things for us to remember
- a) Jesus demonstrates for His disciples what He means to leave all for the sake of the kingdom of God. (cf. 18:29)