

**Text:** Matthew 20:17-19 / Luke 9:44-45

**Title:** Lord's Table: Suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Christ.

**Truth:** Let the truth about Christ sink into your ears.

**Date/Location:** Sunday July 3, 2022 at FBC

## I. An Earlier Saying of the Same Sort

- A. Matthew's record shows us that the Lord was about to enter Jerusalem for the last time before His death (chapter 21). Just before this great event is a critical juncture for the Lord to tell the disciples what is about to happen.
- B. Luke records a similar saying but at another critical point in the Lord's ministry, just before He sets his face steadfastly to go to Jerusalem (Luke 9:51). It would be some months before He arrived there for the last time, during which time He made some short visits to Jerusalem and various other places. But the journey to Jerusalem refers to the "well-known" time that Jesus would enter Jerusalem and then be crucified outside the city gates.

Luke 9:44-45 "Let these words sink down into your ears, for the Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men." But they did not understand this saying, and it was hidden from them so that they did not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask Him about this saying.

- C. The opening phrase strikes me as important. "As for you, place these sayings into your ears." If you are in just the right mindset, this is somewhat humorous: put these sayings deep into your ears. The idea is obviously to think

deeply about them, not ignore them, let them impact you deeply, pay attention, and that sort of thing. There is also an emphasis about the subject of the verb. *You*, dear disciples, of all people, are to listen carefully to what the Lord is about to say. It is going to be an important statement.

- D. I cannot help but think that God has recorded this for *us as well* to make sure we are thinking deeply about what happened to Him.
- E. The information that the Lord was conveying to them was that He was about to be betrayed. He was going to be turned over to men—an ominous statement if you understand the nature of the opposition the Lord faced, and if you grasp the depravity of people who would do terrible things to him. Then you think of the betrayer: *just who* would do that to this innocent man? Who would lie about him or conceive of an evil plot to get him into the custody of the authorities?
- F. The Lord does not specify whether Jews or Gentiles were involved in his betrayal, but we know that groups both were involved.
- G. This information was so new, shocking, and outside of the box of the disciples' thinking that they did not understand it.

## **II. A Third Time: Christ will Die and Rise Again**

- A. The Lord has described this before in Matthew 16:21 and 17:22-23. It is not new information. But it is so difficult that it has to be repeated to get through the ear wax!

- B. This was a private conversation. The Lord took the disciples aside on the road and spoke just to them. It may have been the 12 only, or the others including the women who traveled along with the Lord and served in the ministry. Regardless, this was not a conversation with the general public.
- C. But it is not today a private conversation. It is meant to be a prophetic statement that authenticates the Lord's death and resurrection before it happened. He explained it beforehand, and we have eyewitness testimony of that explanation. He did this to prove He is who He says, that what He did was more significant than any old death, and so that the disciples will not get any credit for his resurrection.
- D. He explained precisely what then came to pass: He would:
1. Go to Jerusalem.
  2. Be betrayed to the chief priests and scribes.
  3. Be condemned to death.
  4. Delivered to the Gentiles (Romans).
  5. Be mocked and scourged by the Gentiles.
  6. Be crucified. Why? Matthew 26:26-29 tells us: to die for many for the remission of sins.
  7. Rise again from the dead.
- E. What I want to emphasize in this message is this: we need to let this sink into our ears. We need to listen, think, meditate, and profit from what the Lord said and did for us. The one who has ears to hear, let him hear! What will this do?

- F. **Paying careful attention to this will affect your how you think**, and what you think about. You should be grateful that Jesus went through all that *on your behalf*. You should be thankful to be able to serve such a Lord as this who knows how to be utterly abased, yet is worthy of total glory.
- G. **Putting these truths into your ears will affect how you live**. You will want to forsake sin because you see its high price paid by the One who loved you.
- H. **Letting these things sink into your ears impacts how you treat others**. First of all, knowing the horror of betrayal and injustice and grave mistreatment of an innocent man, you would not do those sorts of things and you would not support a system of justice where those things happen. Second, you would recognize that if Jesus died in such painful circumstances to save your soul from the consequences of sin and forgive you, you will be forgiving toward others.
- I. **Meditating on what the Lord says will cause your love for Him to grow** and become a more integrated part of your life. Think about it: someone was willing to go what he went through to take care of *your* sin. That's tremendous, and should elicit a kind of loving life and service for this Great One that is above all else. Love is demonstrated in the mind, attitude, speech, and in behavior. Love drives you to naturally want to keep the Lord's word (John 14:15, 14:23-24, 15:10; 1 John 5:2-3). Love induces you to help others (1 John 3:17). Love causes you to want to serve (John 13:15). Love for God drives you to want to see Him glorified in the lives of others (James 5:20). If you love God, you desire to

worship Him, and be with His people, and draw others to Him, and endure mocking on his behalf.

## **Conclusion**

Think! Do not bumble through life ignoring God and His word. It is critical that you keep this information in mind—that Christ died for your sins according to the Scriptures—and according to His prophecy—and rose again from the dead.

I am so grateful for that. Now, what to do about that? Well, one thing is to celebrate the Lord's Table as a solemn but also joyful remembrance. With a "joyful grief" at what the Lord has done, let us partake.

MAP