

- **and three days later He will rise again** – Jesus again predicts His

Resurrection which was the hardest part for them to grasp (Mark 9:9-10) It must have been a haunting conversation as they approached Jerusalem, and Jesus **“was walking on ahead of them; and they were amazed, and those who followed were fearful.”** Jesus apparently is not only using His **knowledge** of the **Old Testament** but also here is a **prophetic utterance** speaking of the **certainty** of **events** that will happen in the **future**. The **accuracy** of this **prophecy** is recorded in all four Gospels and explained by the disciples later in the book of Acts.

**Acts 2:22-24** - 22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know - 23 **this Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.** 24 "And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. NASB

**Acts 4:27-28** - 27 "For truly in this city there **were gathered together against Thy holy servant Jesus, whom Thou didst anoint, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,** 28

to do whatever Thy hand and Thy purpose predestined to occur. NASB Jesus makes it clear that the **Jewish leaders** as well as the **Romans** will be **responsible** for His **death**, but as Acts 4:27 explains, it also fell upon the **Roman Soldiers** (the Gentiles) who carried out the barbaric murder, as well as the people of Israel, who will later **cry aloud** for His **death** even though the Governor three times pleads with the crowd that Jesus was **innocent** (Mark 15:10-20, Luke 23:4, 13-25, John 18:38, 19:13-16). Even though all these people **conspired together** to condemn and **murder Jesus** unjustly and violently, yet this was all according to the Divine will of God who's **“hand and purpose predestined to occur,”** and Jesus was ultimately **“delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God,”** even though it was carried out by all these people and their own free choices, **“you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.”** The mystery of **Divine Providence** and **human responsibility** is amazing, but when it comes to the unjust trial, beating, death and Resurrection of Jesus, these things were **motivated** and **planned** by God's great **love** for His **people** in sending His Son to be the **Christ**, the final sin offering to **save** them from **eternal death** and to accomplish His holy **Justice** on **their behalf**.

**Isaiah 53:10** - 10 But **the Lord was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering,** He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand. NASB

Soon they will enter **Jerusalem** for **Passion Week**, and the entire amazing **story** will unfold before our eyes. These things are **marvelous** indeed.

**Psalm 118:22-25** - 22 The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief corner stone. **23 This is the Lord's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. 24 This is the day which the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.** 25 O Lord, do save, we beseech Thee; O Lord, we beseech Thee, do send prosperity! NASB

The Lord did indeed “**save**” and He did indeed “**send prosperity,**” but all of this happened at the expense of **Jesus**, the Son of Man and “**My beloved Son!**”

Now even as Jesus has just given some of the most depressing information they could have possibly heard, yet the disciples still have **human interests** dominating their minds.

**Mark 10:35-45** - 35 And James and John, the two sons of Zebedee, came up to Him, saying to Him, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask of You." 36 And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" 37 And they said to Him, "Grant that we may sit in Your glory, one on Your right, and one on Your left." 38 But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking for. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" 39 And they said to Him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you shall drink; and you shall be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized. 40 "But to sit on My right or on My left, this is not Mine to give; but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." 41 And hearing this, the ten began to feel indignant with James and John. 42 And calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them. 43 "But it is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; 44 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. 45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

As Jesus makes His way **resolutely** toward **Jerusalem**, He is yet still giving the disciples intense **training**, this time again in the lessons of humility and servant leadership. “**35 And James and John, the two sons of Zebedee, came up to Him, saying to Him, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask of You." 36 And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" 37 And they said to Him, "Grant that we may sit in Your glory, one on Your right, and one on Your left."** These two “**sons of thunder**” as Jesus called them, (Mark 3:17) are here again **seeking** to be **great**. But they don’t really understand

that even though there will be a **future** time of **glory**, it will come through the rough road of suffering and death, and the taking up of their crosses to follow Jesus. **“38 But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking for. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?”** Jesus here referring to His **suffering and death** which He called His **“baptism,”** and asking the disciples if they are ready to **“lose their life for His sake and the Gospel’s”** (Mark 8:34-35). To this of course these brash and bold men respond, **“39 And they said to Him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you shall drink; and you shall be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized.”** Little did they realize that the **path to glory** would include a lifelong ministry of **suffering and persecution**, yet Jesus was certain that they would follow Him in His **cruciform way of life**. Indeed, **John** after a lifelong Gospel ministry would wind up **exiled on Patmos** for His testimony, and **James** would be the first Apostle to die as a **martyr** as he was **executed** with the sword by **Herod** (Acts 12:1-2). But the request to sit at His side, said Jesus, was not His to grant, **“40 “But to sit on My right or on My left, this is not Mine to give; but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”** Jesus was always aware it seemed of the **Father’s eternal plans** and here deferring to the fact that **certain authority** belonged to the **Father only**, and not to the Son. Now this request of course was very **annoying** to the other **disciples**. **“41 And hearing this, the ten began to feel indignant with James and John. 42 And calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, “You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them.”** Jesus pointing out the audacity of worldly rulers and **walking** toward His own death at the **cross** is so **patient** with these men **squabbling** over who is **greater**, and again reminds them of His earlier lesson of **humility** and **servant leadership**. **“43 “But it is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; 44 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all.”** Even though our hearts with the disciples are often lifted up with **pride**, let us acknowledge the Lord’s great desire for us to make ourselves low, to **humble ourselves** before God and others, and **put action** to our **humility** by **serving others** and becoming the **“slave of all.”** This is a **worthwhile ambition** and it is the **way to follow Jesus**. As Jesus leads the way to the cross on this fine day, let us long to follow Him and resolutely become **humble servants** of others in our lives. **“45 “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”** Oh dear Christian, give **serious thought** to the **way you live** your life, and let these words of Jesus be the **measuring stick** for how well we **are or are not** doing in our **pursuit** of Him (Mark 8:34-35).