

# JESUS WENT BEFORE THEM

## Mark 10:32-34

Since the day Jesus began His earthly ministry and called His disciples to follow Him, He had tried to help them see exactly Who He was. They believed that He was a great teacher. They believed that He was a great prophet. They believed that He was a man of God. They even believed, on some level, that He was the promised Messiah and the Son of God.

They believed that their leader, their rabbi, Jesus, was going to deliver their nation from the oppression of Rome. They believed that Jesus was going to restore Israel to its former greatness. They believed that He would be the King of Israel.

The disciples believed that these things were about to happen in their lifetimes. They believed that Jesus was on the verge of establishing His kingdom in the world. But they failed to understand the truth that God was up to something much greater than that.

On two previous occasions Jesus had tried to tell His men that He was sent to this world to die. Jesus told them about His approaching death in **Mark 8:31**. On that occasion Peter rebuked the Lord, refusing to believe this could happen to Jesus. On the second occasion, **Mark 9:31**, they were all confounded by what Jesus said and could not get their minds around it.

So here in Mark 10 once again, Jesus tells His men what is about to take place. He gives them the clearest and most detailed statement about His impending death.

**32 Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him:**

**33 "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles;**

**34 and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again."**

This occurred as Jesus and His men were walking on the way toward Jerusalem. **Verse 32** says, **"...and Jesus was going before them."** Can you picture Jesus, out in front, all alone, walking toward His certain death? In this passage, we see Jesus leading His men. We see Jesus going where no other man could go; about to do what no other man could do. We see Jesus blazing the trail for all who will receive Him by faith. The good news today is that we have a Savior who goes before us. Let's see what was on our Lord's mind as He approached the cross.

### I. JESUS AND HIS FOCUS v. 32

The phrase **"and Jesus went before them"** is in the present tense. This phrase has the idea that **"Jesus kept going and going"**, as He lead the way for them. It is the picture of a man whose face is set. It is picture of a man whose mind is made up. It is the picture of a man who is determined to go somewhere and who refuses to be distracted from his mission. It is a picture of a man who has His mind made up.

That is the Savior in these verses. He has His mind fixed on some things and He is determined to carry out His mission. What is He focused on?

- A. **He Was Focused On A Place** – Verse 32 says “**Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem**”. They were headed to the capital of Israel. They were going to the place where the Temple resided. They were traveling the same road walked by pilgrims on their way to sacrifice. They were walking the same path and millions of others had walked down through the centuries. They were headed to a specific place, Jerusalem.

But not just that city of the temple and palaces. To Jesus, Jerusalem was much more than that. I believe as Jesus went up to Jerusalem He had His mind on a little hill just outside the city gates called Golgotha; a place we call Calvary. His mind was on the hill where Abraham offered up his son Isaac to the Lord, **Gen. 22**. His mind was on the place where He would offer Himself up as the final, perfect, eternal sacrifice for sin and sinners.

Every day of His life; every step in His ministry; every miracle; every sermon; every single thing Jesus did while He was here on this earth served to bring Him to that hill. Calvary was His destiny. Calvary was His mission. Calvary was His goal.

- B. **He Was Focused On A Plan** – Jesus knew that when He arrived at Calvary, He would accomplish God's eternal plan. Jesus knew that at Calvary the prophecies of the prophets would be fulfilled. Jesus knew that at Calvary the just demands of a holy God would be met. Jesus knew that when the events that would take place on Calvary were accomplished, God Almighty would be satisfied and lost sinners could be saved.

The cross and the death of Jesus were not some unfortunate accident. The death of Jesus on the cross was not “**Plan B**”. The death of Jesus was planned long before this world was ever created, **1 Pet. 1:19-20; Rev. 13:8**.

His death was promised to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, **Gen. 3:15**. His death was pictured in the coats of skin God made to cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve, **Gen. 3:21**. His death was prefigured in every sacrifice and offering in the Tabernacle and the Temple. His death was the theme of the Old Testament prophets.

Jesus, in His death on the cross, would accomplish what all the millions of gallons of blood that was shed under the Old Testament system had failed to do. His death would accomplish what Adam's fig leaves could never have done. His death on the cross would fully, eternally, and perfectly pay for the sins all those who would place their faith in Him, **Heb. 10:4, 11-14; 9:12-14, 28**.

As Jesus made His way toward Jerusalem, the plan of salvation was on His mind. He was headed there to fully deal with sin, and nothing would stand in His way!

- C. **He Was Focused On A People** – It wasn't just a place and an plan that had the Lord's attention that day; His mind was also focused on a people.

Before He was born the angel told Joseph, “***you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins,***” **Matt. 1:21**. Jesus came to this world with people on His mind. Who? People He would save from their sins.

He had His mind on all those who bow before the Father and confess Jesus as their Savior. He died for all those who would believe the Gospel message!

In other words, if you are saved, or if you will ever be saved, you were on His mind and Jesus made His way toward Jerusalem that day.

## II. JESUS AND HIS FOLLOWERS v. 32

These verses do not simply talk about the Savior. They also tell us something of the mindset of His men.

We are told that they are “**amazed**”. This word means “**to be astonished or frightened.**” We are also told that they were “**afraid**”. This is the word “**phobeo**”. We get the word “**phobia**” from it. It means “**to be put to flight; to be seized with alarm**”.

There was something in our Lord’s demeanor that caused His men to be filled with fear. There was something about the resolve in the eyes of Jesus that filled His men with fear. Why were they amazed and afraid?

- A. **The Reason For Their Fears** – The disciples are afraid for Jesus, and for themselves, because they know the Jewish leaders hate Jesus. Jesus has had several bitter encounters with the Jewish religious leaders.

The authorities are upset by His miracles. They are upset by His claims to be the Son of God. They are upset that people believe Him to be the Messiah. They are so upset that they want Jesus dead. They hate Jesus so much that they are determined to see Him dead, **John 11:53-57**.

The disciples know this and they are amazed that Jesus seems determined to walk into the hands of His enemies. They are amazed that He seems resolved march to His death, **John 11:8**. I would imagine that they tried to talk Him out of going. I am certain they tried to change His mind. Every attempt failed and Jesus continued to march toward His date with death. Of course, Isaiah predicted the Messiah would be focused, **Isa. 50:7**, “**For the Lord God will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.**”

The disciples are afraid for Jesus, but they are also afraid for themselves! This is not what they think they signed up for. They followed Him because they believed that He was the Messiah. They followed Him because they believed that He was about to establish His kingdom. They followed Him because they thought they would reign with Him. Now it appears as though they will die with Him and they are afraid.

- B. **The Resolve In Their Fears** – Even though they are afraid; even though they can’t talk Jesus out of going to Jerusalem; and even though they want to run away, they continue to follow Him. What a testimony that is! They were resolved to follow Jesus even if it meant that they would die with Him. Their feelings are summed up by Thomas in **John 11:16**, “**Let us also go, that we may die with him.**”

Where are the people who will follow Jesus, even if His path leads you to your death? Where are the people who are determined to follow Him regardless of the cost?

We all have doubts and fears, but we also have a Lord Who goes before us. He knows what disturbs us. In fact, we are told in the Word that what touches us touches Him, **Heb. 4:15**. Because He goes before us, we have a way to follow. We have a Savior who goes before us.

Don’t allow your fears, your doubts and your concerns to derail you. Bring them to Jesus and find a Friend Who is able to help you deal with them all. He knows what you are going through. He has gone there before you.

## III. JESUS AND HIS FUTURE v. 33-34

As Jesus spoke to His men there on the road to Jerusalem, His words were not what they wanted to hear. Jesus tells them in very clear terms what is about to happen to Him at Jerusalem.

How did Jesus know these things? There are two answers. First, Jesus is God! He knows these things are about to take place because they are part of the plan He developed. Second, He knows these things because He had read the Old Testament. Everything Jesus tells His men in these verses was prophesied of the Savior before He ever came into the world.

In these verses, Jesus tells His men what He is about to suffer. He leads the way, He goes before His followers. He goes before us to:

- A. **Rejection** – The leaders of the Jews would make a final rejection of Jesus as the Messiah, **John 1:11**. Their Supreme Court, the Sanhedrin, would condemn Him as a common criminal and sentence Him to die, **Matt. 26:63-66**. The Jews, the very people He came to save, would turn Him over to the Gentiles so they could put Him to death.
- B. **Ridicule** – Even as He died, the crowds around the cross would mock the Son of God and ridicule Him as He died. All the scene: The guards of the High Priest mocked Him, **Matt. 26:67-68**; The soldiers of Pilate mocked Him, **John 19:1-5**; The crowds mocked Him - **Matt. 27:39-44**. They took the Son of God and they scourged Him. They bent Him over a low pole and they beat His back with a Roman flagellum, **John 19:1**. Many people died from this act alone. Then they spit in the face of Jesus and ripped the beard from His face, **Isa. 50:6**.
- C. **Death** – Then they nailed the King of Glory to a Roman cross, where He hung for six agonizing hours before He died. They removed the dead body of the Lord Jesus from that cross and buried Him in a borrowed tomb, **John 19:31-42**.
  - When Jesus died, He was not dying for Himself. He was dying for all those who would place their faith in Him for salvation.
  - When Jesus died, He was paying for sin and satisfying a holy God, **1 John 2:2**.
  - When Jesus died, He was opening a way of salvation for every person who would receive Him as their Savior!
  - When Jesus died, He was dying for sin and for sinners, **2 Cor. 5:21**.
  - When Jesus died, all those who believe in Him died with Him, **Gal. 2:20**.
  - When Jesus died, He was judged in the place of the sinner, **1 Pet. 3:18**.
- D. **Resurrection** – Three days after the King died on the cross, He got up from the dead! Jesus freely laid down His life and He had the power to take up that life again, **John 10:18**. Jesus got up that third day never to die again, **Rev. 1:18**!

What does all that mean for us? Jesus goes before us. He went before us to rejection, to ridicule, to death, and to be raised from the dead. And if we are His followers, that is where we go as well.

Simply this: If you know Jesus Christ as your Savior, you need never fear death, Hell, the grave or the judgment of God. Why? Jesus has gone before us, and He has come through victorious over sin, death, Satan, and Hell.

- When Jesus rose again He arose with everlasting life for all those who have their faith in Him, **John 11:25-26**.
- When Jesus rose again, He stripped the power of the grave away forever and He gave His followers victory over death, Hell and the grave, **1 Cor. 15:53-57**.
- You see, Jesus went before us! He endured the wrath of God on the cross, before us. He rose from the dead, before us. He has paved the way for us and if we will simply follow Him by faith, we will enjoy His perfect, eternal salvation and we will experience peace with God.
- Are you saved today?

**Conc:** Jesus has gone before us. Jesus led the way! Like a Good Shepherd, He walked before His flock, taking care of every need in advance. He has cleared the way for His people.

He came to this world with a single goal. He came to accomplish our salvation. He did this when He died on the cross and rose again from the dead. He went where we could not go and did what we could not do so that we might receive what only He can give us.

Here is the invitation:

1. ***Do you need to be saved today?*** If you are lost and you understand that Jesus died for you and rose again, please come to Him and be saved today.
2. ***Do you have fears and worries in your life?*** Bring them to Him today. He has gone before you, He understands and He can help.