

Matthew 17:22-23 Preparation for What Lies Ahead

Introduction: Beginning with Matthew 16:21 Jesus sought to prepare His disciple for His approaching death. He clearly stated that He must go to Jerusalem. That He must suffer and be killed. Just as clearly He declared that He would arise from the grave on the third day.

He gave special preparation to Peter, James and John. He was transfigured before them. He even called back Moses and Elijah and before Peter, James and John they discussed His death at Jerusalem.

But Jesus could see that none of them were prepared for such an ordeal. Therefore he tries again to prepare them.

I. An exposition of the text

- A. "While they abode in Galilee" ... V. 22
 - 1. Not that they had set up residence there.
 - 2. Mark 9:30 says that they were passing thru Galilee.
 - 3. And they were avoiding contact with the public.
 - 4. Jesus wanted to spend time with the disciples.
- B. I can almost picture the event when He calls them together to talk to them again about His death.
 - 1. "What's up? What's going on?" they might say to one another.
 - 2. They do not know, but must know that His is serious.
- C. Jesus tells them anew of His suffering and death.
- D. But this time He adds new information.
 - 1. He will be betrayed into the hands of His enemies, V. 22.
 - 2. This means that one of the disciples will betray Him.
- E. He stressed that they should not be alarmed because He would be raised again.
(Three days after His death, they would see Him again... alive.)
- F. But the disciples were exceeding sorrowful, V. 23.
 - 1. They still had a hard time accepting the fact that Jesus would be killed.
 - 2. They were so shook up by the thought of His death that they missed what He said about His resurrection.
 - 3. They heard His words, but missed His message.

II. The need today for men to be prepared

- A. We need to get prepared for our own death.
(Just as Jesus was headed for His death, even so we are headed for ours, Hebrews 9:27.)
- B. We know that it is so, but may try to put it from our mind.
 - 1. We fill our minds with other things.
 - 2. We put the thought of our death aside.
- C. God wants us to be informed and reminded.
 - 1. Jesus sounded out the warning in Luke 13:3.
 - 2. Repeatedly we are told to trust Jesus, Acts 16:31; Romans 10:13.
- D. The great danger is that man may hear His words and yet not believe the message.
- E. Jesus went to the cross and died for us that we might be saved.

Conclusion

No matter how big your sins or how many, if you will trust Jesus, Jesus will save you. If not you will burn forever in the fires of hell. Get prepared to meet God.