

Matthew 20:17-19 One More Warning of His Death

Introduction: Jesus warned His disciples of His death, not so they could avoid trouble, but so they would be somewhat prepared.

I. Two previous warnings.

- A. Actually Jesus had spoken of His death numerous times.
 - 1. But usually these were somewhat vague references.
 - 2. For example, He spoke of being in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights, Matthew 12:39-40.
- B. His first direct warning came in Galilee, Matthew 16:21.
 - 1. He foretold His death, but did not mention crucifixion.
 - 2. This was the time Peter said, "Not so, Lord."
- C. His second clear warning also came in Galilee, Matthew 17:22-23.
 - 1. He still did not mention crucifixion specifically.
 - 2. This time the disciples were exceedingly sorrowful.
- D. Now they are on their way to Jerusalem where Jesus said He would be killed.
 - 1. They had detoured into Perea where they had seen Him again heal many people.
 - 2. There they had learned that they would sit upon twelve thrones when Jesus would rule in the millennium.

II. A third and final warning, verse 17.

- A. The time for the annual passover was near.
 - 1. All adult males throughout Israel were to go to Jerusalem.
 - 2. All roads were filled with travelers.
(They traveled in large groups. Sometimes whole villages.)
- B. Jesus and His disciples were among them. (If Jesus would speak privately with His disciples, He would have to carry them aside and He did, verse 17.)
- C. For the third and final time He warned of His death.
(What's that saying about the third time being a charm?)

III. Betrayal ahead, verse 18.

- A. Jesus this time for the second time said He would be betrayed, verse 18.
- B. A betrayal is usually by one who pretends friendship.
- C. He did not then say so, but one of the twelve would do the betraying.
(Perhaps they were not ready for that info.)

IV. The role of the Jewish leaders, verse 18.

- A. He would be betrayed into the hands of the Jewish leaders. (This would include the chief priest and the Sanhedrin counsel, the highest Jewish leaders of the land.)
- B. These leaders had long been His opponents.
 - 1. They had used sarcasm, trick questions, and outright slander.
 - 2. They had opposed Him in Galilee and wherever He traveled.
- C. While they had turned some against Him, they had failed to stop Him.
- D. This they now intended to do.
 - 1. They knew that He would be coming to Jerusalem for the passover.
(This was their territory.)
 - 2. They had already laid plans to kill Him there.

- E. They did not plan to murder or assassinate Him, as this would only get them in trouble with the Roman authorities.
- F. They planned to have Him arrested and to bring legal charges against Him.
 - 1. As if making it legal would make murder alright.
 - 2. Many do the same thing today by killing thousands of helpless babies with legal murder.

V. The role of the Roman authorities, verse 19.

- A. Under Roman law the Jews could not administer the death penalty. (Therefore they pronounced Him as worthy of death and petitioned the Roman court to execute Him.)
- B. The usual method of execution by the Roman government was to behead the criminal.
 - 1. Only the worst were crucified.
 - 2. Jesus would be crucified and He forewarned His disciples.
(He thought it was time for them to know.)
 - 3. He would be mocked, scourged, and crucified.

VI. His willingness to go, verse 18.

- A. In verse 18 Jesus said, “We go up to Jerusalem.” (This was in contrast to, “I must needs go up, Matthew 16:21.)
- B. He was the one who would be killed and yet He was willing to go. (Knowing He would be betrayed, arrested, tried, mocked, beaten, and crucified, yet He was willing to go – willing to go to Jerusalem – willing to go to the cross.)
- C. Jesus knew that either He must go to the cross or everybody else must go to hell.
(Either He must suffer on the cross or we must suffer in the fire.)

Conclusion: His disciples were warned so that they might get braced for what was ahead. Today we are warned of the danger of hell so that we may trust Jesus and avoid that place. Luke 13:3,5; John 3:18. One of these days you will receive your final warning.

Preached at Pleasant Hill 9-15-85 A.M.