

Luke 18:31-43 Jesus Predicts his Death and the Blind Man.

This is another time that Jesus predicts his death (e.g. Luke 9:22, Luke 9:43-45). In this section he is more specific.

v31 'everything that is written by the prophets', there are multiple prophecies about the suffering of the Messiah.

"I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting." Isaiah 50:6

"He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. 4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:3-6

We see that the prophecies concerning the Christ, God's chosen Messiah came true. These prophecies were so accurate, even though they were written in the 8th century before Jesus was born! (1Peter 1:10-12).

v32 Jesus suffered terribly at the hands of men even though he was **sinless**.

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5:21

Jesus was also **innocent** of the charges against him. Pilate found him innocent and so did the thief on the cross.

"What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked. They all answered, "Crucify him!" **23** "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" **24** When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" Matthew 27:22-24

"One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" **40** But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? **41** We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Luke 23:39-41

Jesus tells the disciples explicitly what will happen - for their sake.

He 'will be handed over to the Gentiles' - "Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. **2** And they began to accuse him, saying, "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king." (Luke 23:1,2)

'They will mock him' - "The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One." **36** The

soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar **37** and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." Luke 23:35-37

'insult him' - "One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" Luke 23:39

'spit on him' - "Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. **28** They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, **29** and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. **30** They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. **31** After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. Matthew 27:27-30)

'flog him' - "Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified." Matthew 27:26

'kill him' - "Then they led him away to crucify him." Matthew 27:3

'third day he will rise again' - " He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: **7** 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Luke 24:6-7

Everything that Jesus said would take place did take place. Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem and he knows what is going to happen to him. He is God and he knows everything. For Jesus, these events are a certainty.

read v31-33 again, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man **will** be fulfilled. **32** He **will** be delivered over to the Gentiles. They **will** mock him, insult him and spit on him; **33** they **will** flog him and kill him. On the third day he **will** rise again."

Is there any doubt in Jesus' mind as to what is about to take place?  
If you were sinless and innocent, what would you have done in this situation?

We see Jesus determined to carry out the Father's plan of redemption.

"As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem." Luke 9:51

He willingly did it for me and he willingly did it for you. There was no crown of glory awaiting the King of Kings at Jerusalem; only a crown of thorns. Jesus paid the price of sin out of love for us.

"Jesus' death comes as no surprise. The scripture promised it, and Jesus foretold it. What he suffers, he suffers willingly and knowingly." Bock, *ECNT Luke*

Knowing what happened to Jesus and that he went through it for you, how does it make you feel this morning?

"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. **7** Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly

dare to die. **8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."Romans 5:6-8

**Jesus, when I think of what they did to you, it makes me feel \_\_\_\_**  
**Thank you for your sacrifice Lord. I love you.**

Hymn - Worthy is the Lamb

v35-43 Jesus is on his way to Jericho when a blind man calls out to him, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Notice that he does not call him 'Jesus of Nazareth', but refers to his Messianic title.

"Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever." 2 Samuel 7:16

"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." Luke 1:32,33

The disciples although seeing, 'did not understand' who Jesus was. Perhaps they were expecting a political Messiah. However, this blind man who clearly cannot see understands that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, God's chosen one. The disciples in a sense are spiritually blind and will not understand until after the resurrection. The blind man recognizes that Jesus is the light of the world even though he has been in physical darkness.

The blind man is desperate for Jesus to help him and convinced that Jesus can do it. Dare to believe God for the impossible!

**Are you desperate for God to intervene in your situation?**  
**Have you exhausted all human possibilities and are ready to trust God in faith?**

v41 Jesus' reply seems strange, 'What do you want me to do for you?' Clearly the man is blind! Jesus requests that the blind man acknowledges what he wants.

"Jesus evidently asked His question to elicit the blind man's faith." Constable, *Notes on Luke*

"God still wants us to tell Him our needs as a constant expression of our trust and reliance on Him." Guzik, *Verse by Verse Commentary, Luke*

**Lord Jesus, I want you to \_\_\_\_**  
**Thank you Lord for hearing my cry.**

**Are you spiritually blind to who Jesus is this morning?**  
**Do you see him as your Savior?**

"When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12