

## Amazed and Afraid

Mark 10:32-34

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### Transition: Reading of Mark 10:32-34

Listen to how Jesus fulfilled this prophecy from Psalm 22 written 1,000 years before He was born.

Psalm 22:1, 6-8, 14, 16-18

*“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; ‘He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!’ I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast...For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet - I can count all my bones - they stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.”*

And ponder these verses written 700 years before Christ.

Isaiah 50:6

*“I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.”*

Isaiah 53:3-6, 12

*“He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his*

***mouth...yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.”***

Zechariah 11:12-13 was written about 500 years before Christ.

***“And they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver. Then the LORD said to me, ‘Throw it to the potter’... So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD, to the potter.”***

These passages are just a small sample of the prophecies that are fulfilled by Jesus in precise detail during the final days of his life. As Jesus was walking with his disciples to Jerusalem, He was fully aware of these verses and many more – in fact, there are over 300 Old Testament prophecies that are fulfilled by the birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension and second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ! Listen to what we read in Luke 18:31: ***“And taking the twelve, he said to them, ‘See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished.’”***

Grab your Bibles and turn to Mark 10:32-34. We’re going to see that Jesus not only fulfilled past prophecies, He was also fully aware what was about to unfold in the very near future. He fulfilled the past and He foretells the future. Because our text is so short, we’re going to walk through it phrase by phrase.

My prayer today is that we will grow in our sense of awe and amazement of Jesus and what He has done for us. Our focus will not be on what we need to *do* but rather to delight in what He’s already *done* for us.

Beth, Megan and I got away for a few days this week. We traveled from the Quad Cities to the Twin Cities where our first stop was the Mall of America. We’re not big shoppers but had a blast just walking around. We then left our wanderings in the wilderness of Minnesota and crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land, where our next stop was the holy city of Green Bay. We went from the shrine of shopping to the shrine of sports! I even tried out the Lambeau leap! Our third stop was a tour of a cheese factory where we picked up a supply of the food of heaven, cheese curds. Our journey was really enjoyable in part because we planned it all out ahead of time.

The journey Jesus was on with his disciples was planned out as well, only they were not on a leisurely vacation; He was fulfilling His vocation.

**“And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem...”** Jesus is leaving Perea and is headed towards Jericho with His ultimate destination being Jerusalem. Notice that they are going **“up”** to Jerusalem. This is literally true because of its elevation – whenever you enter Jerusalem you go up. But it’s also true spiritually – as the city of David, God’s people anticipated going up in worship as they entered its gates with joy and anticipation.

The “Psalms of Ascent” (120-134) refer to *“going up”* to Jerusalem to worship. Psalm 122:1-4: ***“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the LORD!’ Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together, to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.”*** Psalm 123:1: ***“To you I lift up my eyes.”***

At the same time, Jerusalem was where prophets were stoned and God’s messengers were killed. Jesus lamented in Luke 13:34: ***“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!”*** We know the disciples are worried that Jesus is going there because of what we read in John 11:8: ***“The disciples said to him, ‘Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?’”*** Jesus had just recently raised Lazarus from the dead and the religious leaders are livid and now Jesus is going back to that same area! No wonder they are afraid.

They are walking the same road that millions had walked before them as they headed to the place of sacrifice for Passover, where the Lamb of God will offer Himself as the final payment for the sins of the world. But Jesus is not thinking only of Jerusalem, He is focused on a little hill outside the city gates, a place called Golgotha, or Calvary. Perhaps His mind is on the knoll where Abraham offered up His son Isaac to the Lord. Just as the scapegoat bore the sins of the people and was sent outside the city, so too, Jesus will take our sins with Him to the cross outside the capital city as the final and perfect sacrifice.

Of course, Jesus knows all of this and is still determined to go there. Look at the next phrase in Mark 10:32: ***“...and Jesus was walking ahead of them.”*** Jesus often walked *with* the disciples but here He is going before them. This is the only time in Mark that we see Jesus out in front of His followers...solitary and focused. The word **“ahead”** is used of bringing prisoners out of prison. The Savior will not be swayed by what lies ahead. He is decidedly determined and in complete control.

Luke 9:51 tells us that Jesus “*set his face to go to Jerusalem.*” This is actually another fulfilled prophecy from Isaiah 50:7: “*therefore I have set my face like a flint.*” A flint was a very hard rock. The idea is determination in the face of great opposition. His mind is made up, his gaze is straight ahead and his gait is straight. He cannot, and will not, be distracted from His mission. He came to be crucified. He was born to die.

It wasn't an accident nor did he fail when He was captured, condemned and crucified. He was never the helpless victim of circumstances beyond His control. Listen to what Jesus says in John 10:18: “*No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.*” He's not a helpless victim; He is the holy victor!

His death was *promised* to Adam and Eve, His death was *pictured* in the garments of skin made to cover their shame and His death was *prefigured* in every offering made in the Tabernacle and the Temple. There was nothing accidental and no detail is incidental.

Friend, whatever you're facing right now, Jesus has gone before you. He is out ahead, preparing the way. As you and I follow Him, let's make sure to not get in front of Him or to just treat Him as our buddy to barter with. He is our leader, our shepherd who is out front, leading his flock.

We now see in the middle of Mark 10:32 two emotional reactions from those who were following Jesus...

- **And they were amazed.** To be “*amazed*” can be translated as, “*troubled and marveling, to be struck with astonishment and wonder.*” The idea is to have “*sudden and indefinable awe.*” The tense of this verb is in the imperfect, meaning that their amazement was ongoing. They are in awe of Immanuel.
- **And those who followed were afraid.** The word “*afraid*” is the Greek word *phobeo* and was used to describe someone who was alarmed and terrified. More specifically it means, “*to be put to flight; to be seized with alarm.*” They were no doubt distressed about their own safety.

Sometimes I wonder if we're so familiar with Jesus that we've lost our fear of Him. Our awareness of the content can numb us to the astonishing nature of the cross. Those who interacted with Him were never passive or bored with Him. There's no way to just ignore Him. He either made people angry or astonished or amazed or in awe or afraid. People fought against Him or they put their faith in Him. The same is true today. You will reject Him or you will receive Him. There's no middle ground.

Check out a few of the reactions that people had to Jesus just from the Gospel of Mark that shows the impossibility of remaining neutral.

1. *And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves (1:27)*
2. *And they were filled with great fear (4:41)*
3. *And they were overcome with amazement (5:42-43)*
4. *And many who heard Him were astonished (6:2)*
5. *And they took offense at Him (6:3)*
6. *For they all saw Him and were terrified...and they were utterly astounded (6:50-51)*
7. *And they were astonished beyond measure (7:37)*
8. *And they marveled at Him (12:17)*

What's your response to Jesus? Have you made the decision to follow Him? What's your reaction to what He has done for you? Are you amazed *and* afraid? God is searching for people who respond rightly to Him as seen in Isaiah 66:2: ***"But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word."***

Many of you know Bill and Beth Wear. They normally attend the 8:00 service. A couple weeks ago I had lunch with Bill and was thrilled to hear how God is using him as he lives on mission. I reminded him that he is a missionary cleverly disguised as a furniture refinisher. I asked him to write down some of what has happened just this past month.

*I have had several situations that have happened...one being a customer that came to me. His wife was passing away and I told him about my loss with my first wife and he responded, "Oh so she lost the battle." I responded with, "No she didn't lose the battle [and pointed to the sky]...she won the battle." He then said to me, "I don't necessarily believe that" and I responded with, "Well, maybe you should...what other hope do you have?" We then proceeded to the car and I was*

*able to talk with his wife. She looked up at me with her husband in the car and said, "You're a Christian aren't you?" I responded, "Yes." But I really was shocked and had nothing else to say.*

*Another situation is that I have an employee that I've been able to witness to over a period of time and [one day] he was praying at the workbench when I walked into the shop and he asked me if I would pray with him.*

*Then another person who is a long-time customer of mine came to me and told me that his wife had passed but that she had many times reflected upon my words of encouragement to her and he thanked me for lifting her spirits.*

*I then had another friend of mine come to me on the verge of suicide wanting to talk and I took him in the house and talked and prayed with him. He is now coming to church with me and also to Celebrate Recovery.*

*The clincher was that the building across from me exploded and I was able to be the first one to enter the building and get all of the people out and afterwards was able to pray with the owner. After that I had many people come into my shop and thank me for praying with her.*

*I have found myself being overwhelmed and scared and amazed at how God is bringing people into my life. Afraid that I don't know what to say or what to do but have come to the conclusion, "Lord, Bring It On!" I since have had a friend of mine come in distress and was able to talk to him and pray with him about his situation.*

*To sum it all up I feel that God is using me – I'm worried, I'm scared, I'm confused, and I'm afraid. I'm amazed at how God can use you if you're willing and that it is not always an easy task! I just want to be in the position that God puts me in and if it comes with fear or if it comes with trials, bring it on because I realize that God is using me so that others will not perish!*

Speaking of living on mission, over 30 students and sponsors went to Dare2Share in St. Louis this weekend to learn how to share Christ on their campuses! I'm sure some were amazed and others were afraid.

I find it impressive that even though the disciples were amazed and afraid, they kept following Jesus, knowing that what will happen to Him could also happen to

them. Thomas, who gets a bad rap, summarizes their resolve in John 11:16: ***“Let us also go, that we may die with him.”***

Look now at the last part of verse 32: ***“And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him.”*** Jesus took the twelve ***“again,”*** which was his custom when He wanted to take them deeper. He gives them some specifics so they won’t be surprised but would you notice He doesn’t comfort them or try to calm them down?

This is now the third prediction from Jesus about what is about to take place, and this one is the most specific. In the first prediction Jesus declared that He would suffer ***“many things.”*** Now He is extremely specific.

Mark 10:34: ***“Saying, ‘See, we are going up to Jerusalem...’”*** The word, ***“see”*** can be translated, ***“Lo and behold!”*** Notice also that while Jesus is ahead of them, they are also going together. They could have refused but they didn’t. Let’s give them props for this. Jerusalem is only 20 miles from Jericho but it is a steep climb. What a reminder that as followers of Jesus we are always battling uphill, going against the gradient of the world. But, He goes *before* us, and we go *with* Him!

***“and the Son of Man...”*** This messianic title used over 80 times in the New Testament, was first used in the Book of Daniel. The idea is the Son of God is also human.

Jesus tells us that eight specific things were going to happen to him. These vivid verbs are all in the future tense, meaning that these things *will happen* to Him with absolute certainty.

**1. Will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes.** The seeds of Judas’ betrayal had already sprouted in his heart. The chief priests were in charge of temple worship and were the representatives of the Jewish people. The scribes were a class of scholars who functioned much like lawyers.

**2. And they will condemn Him to death.** This is a legal term indicating that He will be tried and found guilty and sentenced to death by the Sanhedrin, or Jewish Supreme Court.

**3. And deliver Him over to the Gentiles.** This is a theologically loaded word as it’s the Old Testament equivalent of being *“handed over to God’s wrath.”* This

was a bitter detail that must have really stung the disciples. Gentiles were not only outsiders; they were also enemies. When God judged Israel in Old Testament times, He often did so by using foreign powers. It was the ultimate sign of rejection that God would hand His people over to the Babylonians. The Jewish leaders were not allowed to put someone to death, so they engaged the Romans to do their dirty work.

By the way, sometimes we hear that it was the Jews who killed Christ. Actually, the Romans were technically responsible. But, there's not one race at fault because all of us put Him on the cross. Mel Gibson demonstrated this in the *Passion of the Christ* when the close-up of the hands holding the nails and hammer were the hands of Gibson himself.

**4. And they will mock Him.** To “*mock*” means, “*to scoff, deride and make sport of.*” This is the ultimate expression of sinful human arrogance. The Roman soldiers dress Jesus in a purple robe, put a reed in His hand as if it were a scepter and jam a crown of thorns on his head.

**5. And spit on Him.** In that culture, to spit on someone was the strongest gesture of derision and contempt. We see an example in Job 17:6: “*He has made me a byword of the peoples, and I am one before whom men spit.*” To spit in someone's face was considered absolutely awful. As the soldiers clear their throats and launch their phlegm into His face they are treating Him as subhuman.

**6. And flog Him.** Under the Roman system of scourging, the condemned was stripped and tied in a bending posture to a pillar while the soldier used leather straps weighted with sharp pieces of stone or lead to tear open the back of the person. This flogging was so severe that it was often considered enough punishment for the condemned.

**7. And kill Him.** The Savior would not swoon on the cross only to be revived by the cold grave. No, He was killed by crucifixion. In Matthew 20:19 Jesus actually uses the term, “*crucified,*” which would have triggered a sense of horror among the disciples because this public form of execution was reserved for the worst of criminals. It was barbaric, sadistic and cruel.

**8. And after three days He will rise.** The disciples would be filled with despair and then Jesus tells them that there is good news coming! The resurrection is the certainty that sacrifice for sins has been accomplished.

Each of these predictions happened exactly like Jesus said they would!

Jesus did all this for you...and for your family members and neighbors, your co-workers and classmates. He went through all this so you don't have to. He did it all for you, instead of you, in your place as He exchanged His life for yours.

That's the Great Exchange. Jesus died as our substitute, paying the price for our sins so we can be forgiven and set free.

We're going to celebrate this truth Easter weekend. I'd like you to think of one person right now who is not yet a follower of Christ. Is his or her face in your mind? Ask God to give you an opportunity to make an "Easter Ask" by inviting them to one of our 5 Easter services.

We're going to close by listening to how what Jesus predicted was fulfilled precisely. He did all this for you, and for that person you're thinking of right now.

We began with several prophecies from the Old Testament that were fulfilled with precision by Jesus Christ. We end now by listening to how the eight predictions made by Jesus were fulfilled with pinpoint precision in the final three chapters of Mark's Gospel.

1. **Delivered over to chief priests and scribes.** Mark 14:10, 43-44: ***"Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him...Judas came, one of the twelve, and with a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard."***
2. **Condemned Him.** Mark 14:64: ***"And they all condemned Him as deserving death."***
3. **Delivered over to the Gentiles.** Mark 15:1: ***"And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate."***
4. **Mocked Him.** Mark 15:17, 20, 31: ***"And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him...And***

when they had **mocked** him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him... So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself.'"

5. Spat upon Him. Mark 14:65, 15:19: "And some began to **spit on him**...and they were striking his head with a reed and **spitting on him** and kneeling down in homage to him."
6. Flogged Him. Mark 15:15: "So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and **having scourged Jesus**..."
7. Crucified Him. Mark 15:16, 22-24: "...he delivered him to be **crucified**...And they brought him to the place called Golgotha...And **they crucified him**..."
8. Raised on the third day. Mark 16:1-8: "When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?' And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. **He has risen**; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.' And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid."

Closing Song: "You are My King"