

Broken Dreams; Bigger Dreams

5 Chapters of Your Life-part 1

Holy Week

DAY 1

1. Jesus had been with the twelve disciples for three and a half years. After all that teaching and observing the person and work of Christ, *just before He went to Jerusalem, the following happened!*

Mark 10:32 They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. ³³ "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, ³⁴ who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."

2. List the different things Jesus predicts will happen to Him.

3. If you had been a disciple, what would have gone through your mind?

4. By this time in the gospel narrative, Matthew writes this account as the fourth time that Jesus predicted His death. Why do you think He had to repeat this to the disciples? Did they "get it"?

5. What is the last thing Jesus predicts, in Mark?

6. What reasons can you think of as to why Jesus would tell them about this ahead of time?

7. What strikes you about Jesus' prediction to His disciples?

DAY 2

1. Immediately on the heels of Jesus startling, specific, and graphic predictions about His upcoming arrest, death and resurrection, the *following event happens next!*

Mark 10:35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." ³⁶ "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. ³⁷ They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."

2. What strikes you about their request?

3. How would you characterize their response to His prediction of coming torture and death? Put a check by any of the following ideas that strikes you.

In one ear and out the other.

Could they not get outside themselves, even for something as tragic as *this*?

What gall!

"If I don't look out for #1, who will?"

Even my worst enemy wouldn't have said something like *that*!

Other: _____

4. How do you like their timing of this request?

Mark 10:38 "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" ³⁹ "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared." ⁴¹ When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John.

5. Why do you think the other ten disciples were indignant? (10:41)

6. "Drinking the cup" meant participating in His suffering. Their response is, "Yup! We can!" Why do you think they responded in this way?

7. It is stunning to think that these men were around Jesus 24/7, heard Him teach, watched Him love people and yet were still soooooo self-centered! Is this surprising to you? Why or why not?

DAY 3

1. While they were on their way to Jerusalem, Jesus heals a blind man. The following happens next. Matthew tells us that "crowds" were involved and "the whole city was stirred."

Mark 11:7 When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it.⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields.⁹ Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"¹⁰ "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest!"

2. What do you think was going on in the minds of the people?

3. The people wanted a "king" to overthrow the Roman government and re-institute Israel as a nation. Is that the kind of "king" they were getting? (Look at Mark 11:10)

4. The crowds shouted, "Hosanna" over and over again. "Hosanna" means "God, save us." What kind of salvation do you think they meant?

___ Military

___ Political

___ Financial (out from under Roman yoke)

___ Spiritual

5. What do you think was going on in the minds and hearts of the disciples when they saw the adoring crowds fawning all over Jesus? What do you think happened to their dreams and aspirations of "cabinet positions?"

6. Five days later, this same crowd would turn on Jesus, shouting for Pilate to release Barabbas, and have Jesus crucified. What should we understand about our human nature?

7. What do you learn about Jesus, who walked into his own death trap? For you!

DAY 4

1. Jesus is arrested, beaten, flogged and crucified, just as predicted.

Matthew 27:33 They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull).³⁴ There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it.³⁵ When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots.³⁶ And sitting down, they kept watch over him there.³⁷ Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

2. Matthew records several details around the scene of the cross. What are the Roman soldiers doing in 27:35? What does that say about our human nature?

3. Why do you think Jesus refused to drink the drink laced with alcohol? (It wasn't because He was a "tea-totaller").

Matthew 27:38 Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.³⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads⁴⁰ and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!"⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him.⁴² "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him."⁴³ He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, "I am the Son of God."⁴⁴ In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

4. Matthew records three groups of people that came by, and their reactions to the crucifixion. The first are the "passersby" (27:39-40).

* Have you ever had insults "hurled" at you? What is that like? (27:39)

* What is the meaning of them "shaking their heads?" (27:39) What does that usually signify?

* What is the point of their mockery in 27:40?

5. The second group is the Jewish religious leaders: chief priests, teachers of the law and elders.

* What drove them in these verse? (27:41)

* What central points are they making in 27:42-43?

6. The third group are the robbers. What did they do? (27:44). What is the difference between "hurling" insults (27:38) and "heaping" insults (27:44)?

7. We see the worst side of our human nature! What strikes you about Jesus' response?

DAY 5

1. What do you think happened to the disciples after Jesus' crucifixion? Recall that just a few days before they watched the triumphal procession into Jerusalem with adoring crowds! They dreamed of being big shots in the new government. Their dreams were dead! What kinds of things were they thinking? Feeling?

2. Have you experienced the death of a dream? What was that like? Jot down a few phrases.

Matthew 28:5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

3. An angel of the Lord appears to the women who came to the tomb, and tells them that Jesus has risen from the dead. They survey the empty tomb and see His "grave" clothes. What do you think went through their mind?

4. Notice what the angel reminds them of in 28:6. Why was the oft-spoken prediction of His death *and resurrection, before His death* so important?

5. What happened to the disciples' old dreams? Was the death of their old dreams a good thing?

6. God's "dream" for people is bigger than our smaller dreams for us. But we will never fully grasp the meaning of God's bigger dream for us as long as we hold tightly to our smaller dreams, and live as if our smaller dreams *are the biggest dreams!* It is within God's goodness to sometimes shatter our smaller dreams.

a. What strikes you about this?

b. Do you have some shattered dreams? Or dreams that seem to be crumbling? How does the story of the disciples' shattered dreams and God's replacement of the those dreams with bigger ones strike you, personally?