

最意外的启示——马可福音 8:31-34

The Most Shocking Revelation—Mark 8:31-34

Introduction & Outline

- Scripture reading: Mark 8:27-38; Isaiah 55:8-11; Romans 11:33-36
Mark 8:31-34
31 And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 And He was stating the matter plainly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. 33 But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.”34 And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.
- Crucifixion of Jesus is no longer a surprise today, but at that time, its unexpected nature caused even the most spiritually mature disciples to plummet instantly into the lowest spiritual valley.
- The reason we fall into spiritual valleys is usually due to trials and difficulties in life, but here, Peter's fall was surprisingly caused by the precious revelation of Jesus' words. That's why I call it the most shocking revelation.
- Outline:
Title: The Most Shocking Revelation
 1. The Background of the Revelation(v.31a, related verses)
 2. The Content of the Revelation (v.31b)
 3. The Reaction to the Revelation (vv.32-33)
 4. The Application of the Revelation (v.34, next sermon)

The Background of the Revelation(v.31a, related verses)

- 'began to teach': Jesus had not explicitly taught them about His upcoming death and resurrection until now. The time had come, Jesus was about to go to Jerusalem for crucifixion, it was time to inform the disciples about the next step in His ministry plan.
However, Jesus had hinted at His death multiple times before (e.g., John 2:19-22; Matthew 12:40; Mark 2:20). At that time, the disciples did not grasp it, nor did Jesus explain it, for His focus then was to reveal His identity, so that the disciples may firmly know the One to be hung on the cross is indeed the Son of God, and that His sacrifice indeed has enough value to satisfy God’s wrath for sin for all who believe. However, from this day on, the cross would become the dominant theme of Jesus' teaching to His disciples, for that was the whole reason He came into the world in the first place (John 12:27).
Two years of teaching has already led the disciples to confess Jesus as the Christ (v29). Only by firmly believing Jesus is the Christ, the Savior God promised and the only hope for sinners, can they

continue to follow Jesus no matter what. Though they are yet foolish and ignorant, though they still make mistakes and get rebuked, though Jesus' plan is completely beyond their comprehension, they can still follow Jesus unwaveringly because they are fundamentally convinced of the precious value of Jesus as the Christ. But they still don't know how Jesus would accomplish this value. They've known Christ's identity, but they still don't know His work.

The most important aspect of Christ's work was to die for the redemption of God's people from their sin, and to rise from the dead in complete victory over sin so as to bestow eternal life. John the Baptist had already prophesied about Jesus' death (John 1:29, 37), and the disciples shouldn't have forgotten it.

The Content of the Revelation (v.31b)

- “The Son of Man must...”: This thing must happen, and there is no other way. It's the strongest emphasis in Greek.

【Insight 1】 Do you see the determination of Jesus as He goes to the cross? His mission as the Son of Man is to die, and it must be fulfilled, regardless of whether others understand it or how much suffering He has to endure. Can you feel the strength of Jesus' love?

Romans 5:8, 'But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.'

【Insight 2】 The determination of the Lord Jesus also reflects His obedience to the Word of God. He saw from the Scriptures that Christ must be crucified.

Luke 24:26, 46, 'Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory? ... Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day.'

- 'Suffer many things': He was rejected by His own family, slandered and reviled by religious leaders, and had to put up with all kinds of foolishness of His disciples. In a broad sense, these were all part of Jesus' sufferings.
- “be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes”: In one sense, they had already rejected Jesus. But here, the word 'rejected' carries the meaning of 'testing,' implying that Jesus would undergo a trial. This statement serves as an accurate prophecy, and its fulfillment is the trial of Jesus in Mark 14:53-65.
- “Be killed”: No additional details, just one word. Obviously, this is the most shocking part, so much so that the disciples seem to have only heard this and completely missed the next part.
- “And after three days rise again”: Earlier, Jesus had spoken of rebuilding the temple in three days (John 2:19) and being in the belly of the fish for three days (Matthew 12:40), all conveying the same message. The disciples failed to make any connection here.

【Insight】 Listen carefully to the word of the Lord! As soon as the disciples heard the word 'killed,' their ears were closed, and they didn't even hear the resurrection. If they had listened to Jesus' word completely, what would there be to worry about? Death is not the end; it's just for three days, and He will rise very soon. What Jesus reveals here is not just bad news; it ends with the good news. But the disciples somehow managed to only hear the bad news part and completely missed the good news."

The Reaction to the Revelation (vv.32-33)

- "He was stating the matter plainly": Previously, it was only implied; here, Jesus spoke plainly: I will suffer, I will be killed. Unless speaking plainly like this, the message just won't get through these thick heads. Jesus had already implied it numerous times, but they had no idea what it meant.
- "Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him": Finally, they got it! And they immediately had a strong reaction. "Rebuke" is a strong word, usually referring to a serious warning of a superior to a subordinate with a tone of authoritative command. Usually, it is Jesus rebuking others; here, Peter presumptuously rebuked Jesus, plainly rejecting the Lord's ministry plan.

Isaiah 55:8-9 says, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts."

【Insight 1】 If we truly acknowledge the Lord as Lord, we should submit to His plan, right?

【Insight 2】 But consider Peter's love for the Lord. The reason Peter couldn't accept Jesus' plan to die was not only due to his ignorance of God's will but also out of his genuine love for the Lord. He just couldn't imagine living without Him. Today, some Christians live lives without Jesus Monday through Saturday, and they don't even seem to be bothered.

- "Get behind Me, Satan!" This doesn't mean Peter was demon-possessed and completely controlled by Satan. It means he was spiritually influenced by Satan and, without realizing it, became a mouthpiece **【Alert】** We all have the potential to become mouthpieces for Satan, and we all have indeed done so in reality. When does this happen? When we "are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's." When we don't value God's Word, and our minds are filled with what people say and think. Some people's religion is entirely about man, about what people say or do.
- "seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter": This implies the other disciples had the same thoughts as Peter. They just didn't say it out loud. At this moment, all the disciples were deceived by Satan, and they all made the same mistake in their hearts. The error is this:
- "you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's": "setting your mind on" means to ponder attentively, not casual thinking but concentrated, focused pondering. It doesn't necessarily mean pondering something in specific; sometimes, it denotes a person's overall

thought-life or mindset. This overall mindset is crucial because it directly reflects whether someone is fundamentally a saved person.

Romans 8:5-7 says, "For those who are according to the flesh **set their minds on** the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For **the mind set on** the flesh is death, but **the mind set on** the Spirit is life and peace because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so."

Philippians 3:19, "[non-believers'] end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who **set their minds on earthly things.**"

Peter's behavior here is not like a believer at all; it's more an unbeliever! That might be part of why Jesus called to Satan, for it is completely incongruent with Peter's true nature. It's characteristic of Satan's life!

The rebuke of Jesus implies Peter had the ability to discern. He knew what God's will was but did not set his mind on it or ponder it. This is not a knowledge issue; it's a moral issue, a conscious choice to resist God's revelation. Peter knew what God's will was—he just heard it directly from Jesus!—but he deliberately chose not to set his mind on it.

【Insight】 God's will is for Jesus to suffer death; human will is this shall never be. God's will is to suffer before glory; human will is to avoid suffering and seek only glory. God's will is to bring forth an eternal kingdom through the cleansing of sin by Christ's death; human will is just to have the kingdom regardless of what happens with sin, to ignore sin, to treat sin lightly. God's will is to fulfill all the promises of God's Word; human will is to fulfill only those promises that bring immediate benefits. God's will is for people to wait in faith and patience for God's promises; human will is to get God's blessings right here right now. God's will is for Christ to humble Himself to the end, to lay down His life as an example for those who follow Him; human will is for Christ to be exalted immediately, so we can all go up with Him immediately. God's will is for man to completely deny himself; human will is to be okay with not denying oneself completely.

The Application of the Revelation (v.34, next sermon)

- "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me": Today, the fact that Jesus laid down His life in self-sacrifice is no longer a shocking revelation. However, for many people, the most shocking revelation is that those who follow Jesus must also deny themselves and undergo a baptism of death and take up their own cross to follow Him. Is this a surprising revelation to you?