

Learning to Recognize Jesus: He Must Suffer

Mark 8:31-33

Wakad, 7th July, 2013

- What makes the Gospel good news?
 - There is a movement in the church that declares the Gospel to be the good news that there is one God, YHWH of Israel, who is for the whole world, and Jesus Christ is glorious victor and the one who will bring God's reign to earth in peace and justice.¹
 - You might agree with this idea of Jesus. But is that what makes the **Gospel** good news to you?
 - In this teaching, the Gospel is not about being saved from sin. Atonement for sin is missing.
- Peter's confession was glorious, in terms of being in the right direction of who Jesus is – not just one of the human prophets, but the Son of God appointed by God to gloriously deliver his people.
 - Peter still missed the main thing. And so do today's new teachers who reinterpret the Gospel. And he, just like they, take offense at a Saviour who suffers for sin.
 - As we look at Mark 8:31-33 and see Jesus' firm emphasis on his sufferings, the question to be answered is why Jesus makes suffering crucial to his mission.
 - Why does great deliverance have to include this great suffering?
 - As we examine the text, we will see that truly, the Gospel is not just a declaration of the Lordship of Jesus (which it is) but just as integrally, a declaration of the salvation from sins which Jesus brings through his sufferings, death and resurrection.
- Our anchor will be the heart of Jesus' teaching in v31: "the Son of Man must" – suffer, be rejected & killed, and rise again.

Why must the Christ suffer?

¹ See John Piper's summary of NT Wright's teaching in *The Future of Justification*, 18ff

1. Because the Scriptures demand it (v31)

a. The “Son of Man”

- i. We’ve discussed this earlier in Mark, but Jesus never designates himself as “Christ”. His choice term is “Son of Man”
- ii. At surface, we would say this is a description of his humanity, as “Son of God” for his divine nature. But especially here, there must be more.
 - 1. It comes right after Peter’s confession of “Christ”. Jesus then begins his teaching to the disciples, that the “Son of Man” must suffer.
 - 2. In light of so much misunderstanding of terms, He seems to use this relatively obscure title as a replacement for “Christ” or “Messiah” which might have political connections – like Peter seems to have.
- iii. Where does this come from? Daniel 7:13-14
 - 1. This is a figure singularly connected with glory, dominion and God’s victory
 - 2. Peter would be okay with this.
- iv. But Jesus makes connections about the Son of Man that causes Peter to rebuke him. Let’s look at some OT passages.

b. Must suffer, be rejected & die:

- i. Deut 28:58-61, setting the foundation (cf Deut 28:21-22, 27, 35, Deut 32, Lev 26)
 - 1. At the birth of the nation of Israel
 - 2. Israel’s judgment if they reject YHWH’s law
 - 3. Sickness, affliction as a result of disobedient sin
- ii. Isa 53: restored Israel’s song
 - 1. V3 – despised rejected (Ps 118:22 – cornerstone)

2. V4-5 – vicarious “in place of” carrying of griefs, sorrows, afflictions. V6 – “laid on Him” our iniquities”
- iii. “Must rise”
 1. Many possible OT allusions (Jonah, Hosea 6:2)
 2. But the idea here is victory, vindication of the purpose of the sufferings
- c. Putting it together:
 - i. In any case, the question is what’s the suffering for?
 - ii. Second, what makes the suffering here connected to sin offering?
 - iii. What Jesus doing is taking the glory of Daniel 7 and necessitating that it is connected to Isa 53 with some clear allusions.
 - iv. The suffering of the Christ, the rejection and death of the Christ, the resurrection, as far as OT connections of a suffering servant of God clearly relate to sin offering “in place of” guilty people deserving just curse.
 - v. This is not just a tale of “victory through strife”

Why else must the Christ suffer?

2. Because Christ’s Mission Demands it (v32-33)

If anyone is clear about Christ’s vicarious, sin atoning sacrifice, it’s Mark through Peter

- a. 1:1 – his name is Jesus (cf matt 1:21)
- b. 2:10 – authority for what? Sin forgiveness!
- c. How? To give his life as a ransom for many.
- d. Peter’s rebuke reveals this in 32,33 – what’s going on with Jesus’ hard words?

- i. Peter takes him aside and in his pride of understanding wants to correct Jesus' misunderstanding of his mission. But he was representing the 12 as v33 shows.
- ii. "get behind me, Satan"
 - 1. Why?
 - 2. Matthew 16:23 – he was being a hindrance.
 - a. Just as Satan himself tried to short-circuit the cross work in the temptation by promising glory without sin-atonement cross sacrifice, so here he influences a misguided Peter. It's the same desire – to thwart the mission of the messiah
 - b. But there is no Christ without the Cross. Phil 2:8-9, he humbled himself to death on a cross, *therefore* God highly exalted him
 - c. And the cross was a sin-bearing sacrifice.

But, more personally, why must the Christ suffer?

3. Because God's Mercy to Sinners Demands it

- a. We all are sinners, even believers – we have no righteousness (Rom 3:9-11)
- b. We trample his name under our feet because we don't exalt God as we ought to (Rom 3:23)
- c. For us to stand before God,
 - i. our guilt for trampling on his glory must be removed by the payment of wrath
 - ii. We must possess a righteousness that we do not hold
- d. This is why Christ came
 - i. John 3:16
 - ii. Titus 3:4-5a

- iii. Here, Mark 8:31 – for our sake, the Son of Man must suffer many things, must be rejected, must die, and must rise again.
- e. Jesus' rebuke to Peter was thus not a rude outburst, but borne out of concern for Peter's great need, just like we need Him

What makes the Gospel "good news"?

- The message of Jesus Christ the king and victor, alone, should be fearful and dreadful to guilty sinners.
- The message of a suffering Christ as one who gains victory through adversity is irrelevant.
- But when we see, as the repentant Jews see in Isaiah 53, that "all we like sheep have gone astray, but the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all"
 - Then a suffering Messiah is the greatest good news we could receive, because it means freedom by substitution
 - It is only because of a cross where sin is dealt with, that "Jesus Christ, the Son of God" becomes "Gospel".