

Christ's Final Journey, Pt. 1

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Last Sabbath, we were covering some of the travels of Christ and His disciples that was leading up to a journey finally down toward Jerusalem. And I've broken these sermons up on purpose in order to not just have a lot of them in one particular series. But today we're going to begin a new series, and this one's entitled *Christ's Final Journey*, because this covers the last two and a half to three weeks, whatever it was there exactly, we don't know, but it was very close to that as they were heading down toward Jerusalem and the events that were a part of that.

So, I'm going to begin this week by covering a part of what was covered at the very end of the sermon last Sabbath in Mark 9. This has caused some people in times past some difficulty to understand a part of what was being said here.

But in **Mark 9:1** it says, **Now, He said to them**, speaking of Christ, **Verily I say to you, there are some that stand here who will not taste of death until they have seen the Kingdom of God coming with power**. And then it goes on and talks about, a little bit later, the matter of the transfiguration on Mount Hermon, believed to be Mount Hermon. So, that's where we're going to pick it up today, in that particular area. Again, they were at the far north.

I don't have my trusty maps here with me today. Oh, yeah, I do have. I think I have it all in my head now anyway, where all this is. But again, this is in the area north of the Sea of Galilee, another sea that's farther north there, Caesarea Philippi, then beyond that. And in this area is where Mount Hermon was, and this is where it's believed that, because it mentions Caesarea Philippi, that this is where He was when the transfiguration took place.

So, we're going to pick that up now in the book of Luke 9. We covered what was said there in Mark 9, but I want to pick it up here in Luke 9 now. **Luke 9:37—Now it came to pass on the next day when they had come down from the mountain...** So, this is, again, most likely Mount Hermon, that it was up around Caesarea Philippi. The transfiguration had taken place here, in what we just read about here. And of course, that, again, was the point where Moses and Elijah appeared. The disciples who were with Him saw this. They saw Christ transfigured, if you will. So, whatever it was, some kind of a vision or whatever, it wasn't something literal, because again, He wasn't changed, literally, until His resurrection.

So again, this was something they saw. So, they were able to witness something, and that's what He was referring to earlier here, a part of the Kingdom of God, in that respect, of Christ being in God's Kingdom and going ahead as well another 2,000 years to the time when Christ returns, and Moses and Elijah and so many others will be there as well. And so, they were talking to Christ at that particular time and conversing back and forth and so they knew it was Christ and these two individuals. So, they did see it in part, and that's what He was referring to there in the book of Mark.

So now picking up the story. So they came down, then, the next day, it says, they came down from the mountain, and that **a great multitude then met Him. Then appeared a man...** So, they were following Him. They were all over the place because He was, there was a lot going on at this particular time. After they left the area of Nazareth and began to go northward, and some of these travels, final travels, all the healings that took place on the way there, as we talked about last Sabbath, and large numbers of people. He'd already performed the two miracles of the bread and the fish, and the multiplication of that, and how great that was, with several thousands of people. Incredible. And how much they took up afterwards, far, far more than what they had when they started that feeding, if you will, feeding of all those people.

And so, this stuff is noised around fast, and they're trying to bring other people to Him to be healed, people with questions, people who just want to see, curiosity. So nothing like this had ever happened ever on earth, and news travels fast when something like that to that magnitude is happening.

And so, here it is again. He comes down, and here they are again. So, **Then appeared a man from the multitude crying out, Teacher, I implore you, look on my son, for he is my only child. Behold, a spirit seized him, and he suddenly cried out, causing him convulsions so that he foamed at the mouth.** And it says, **and it will hardly depart from him as it's breaking him or breaking him down**, if you will. And so, the father concerned about this because of what's taking on, knowing that, saying here it's referring to a spirit.

I even implored your disciples to cast it out, but they could not. So this is at a period of time where they were literally involved in some of these things as well. Christ had sent them out at different times here, and getting ready to send them out again ahead of Him down into the area of Samaria, and with the ability to teach about Christ to a point, but also as a matter of healing, some of the things they were involved in. So again here, incredible things that were taking place.

But he's letting them know here, or this individual is letting Christ know that they couldn't do anything. **So Joshua answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.** So even in the midst of all this, it was something that was moving to Him in the sense of coming to a deeper understanding perhaps, or whatever it was, of thinking toward mankind, of how messed up we really are.

He had a different life within Him from birth in the sense of the mind and what He could see, but this was something...what bothered Him. It hurt Him to see what mankind was really like, and that people wouldn't believe after all the things that had transpired, after all the things that had taken place. And certainly understanding why, but saying a lot of these things for others' benefit as well.

So He said, **Bring your son here. Then, as he was yet coming, the demon threw him down, causing him to have convulsions.** Thankfully, those kinds of things, as a whole, are not happening in this age in the way that they were back then. There are things that have happened back in Philadelphia. During that

period of time, the demonic world gets stirred up, but they've had a lot of power taken away from them, a lot of power.

When they were put on this earth, they had incredible power taken away from them. And then even in their dealings with mankind at different times they've had different power taken away from them, and yet God's given them more or allowed them to have more specific times that we know about concerning the revivals of the Roman Empire. Each time that there was a revival, they had been given power to influence others, to stir others, and to bring nations to war.

So, God has allowed them to do various things at different times for a great purpose. And we learn from those things as time goes on. So, here's a case of a particular demon that's influencing this child and causing him to have all kinds of problems, obviously, when you're having convulsions, and you're foaming at the mouth. A horrible thing for a parent to watch a child go through something like that. But to know by however ability he knew, which I don't know, it doesn't say it here, he knew that it was a spirit.

And so Christ addresses it. **Then Joshua rebuked the unclean spirit, making it very clear it was a demon. Healed the child and gave him back to his father. Now they were all amazed at the mighty power of God.**

So again, this happened several times in Christ's life here, of different times when different ones were rebuked. And kind of a unique thing about a demonic world—I made comment about this in times past—that there have been influences, there are things that some have done through time, and God has allowed some of that. And one of the best things that I've referred to in times past is turn on the hymns, sing the hymns. They can't stand it. They can't stand things about God. They can't stand the truth. And for whatever reason, they can't stand that as a whole; they don't want to be around it. And so, again, besides prayer and fasting, it's another tool. It works. Incredible.

Verse 44—But while everyone marveled at all the things which Joshua did, He said to His disciples, Let these words sink down into your ears. For the Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men. Unique how it says it in the Greek language here. “Let these sink down,” as it were, “into your ears” (into your mind), because this is going to take place. They didn't understand it yet, but this is what He told them.

The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men. But they did not understand the saying, and it was hidden from them. God didn't let them see it yet. They heard what He said, but they couldn't grasp it.

To me, that's an awesome thing, how God works with mankind, how He works with us in the Church, even when we're being called. And even through different ages. There are things that God doesn't let us see until He reveals it to us. He has that power to unlock things in the mind, for us to be able to see and

understand things about Him, His purpose, what He's doing, and so forth. To me, that's an incredible thing, that we can't see it—not on a spiritual plane with the impregnation of His spirit even within us—until it's His time (Awesome!), let alone the process of being called.

And it was hidden from them so that they did not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask Him about this saying. So it was all physical to them, and yet they knew it was for great purpose because He'd taught them a lot of things already. But to say this, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed?" And to be afraid, then, to ask Him what this meant?

Then a dispute... It's a word here having to do with "contention, contending, or divisive reasoning," if you will. In other words, "The way I see it." This is something that has always been in God's Church, to one degree or another – contention, divisive speech, if you will, going back to the root of it, "The way I see it." Because when someone becomes so strong that they see something in a certain way, especially if it's about doctrine or...

Our history through Philadelphia, and especially in Laodicea, became so strong in that. That's why so many went off in different tangents. And God allows people to do that. If they want to believe something different, God allows them to do that. If they're of a certain spirit and a certain attitude and begin to turn away from what they've been told?

Because we're all told... Herbert Armstrong... I think back at those early days being in the Church, "Remember from whom you learned it." And so many in the Church never learned that simple principle – how God works, where He's working. Where did you learn the truth? And the vast majority of the ministry of God's Church that went into Laodicea lost that. And you think, what a hideous, horrible thing! But that's where God's spirit begins to be taken away.

You want to use your own human reasoning? God lets us do it. But He starts cutting us off and taking away His power, His might in the mind so that other things can enter in the mind and people can come up with all kinds of things. To forget that He was God's apostle? It's mind-boggling! Really, our history is mind-boggling. You look back and think about...

I think of the one example where the auditorium was filled with people – this went out to the Church – and he's speaking and talking and he stops, because he asked a question of the ministry, basically, and there was one minister way at the back that held up his hand. And basically, he dismissed him for whatever reason, and then got on to those who weren't there. "Where are the ministers? Why aren't they here?" I believe it was a Bible study, if I remember correctly. It was a Bible study, and they weren't there because they didn't need it.

Laodicea was already happening. Rich and increased with goods. They didn't need to be there at God's apostles' feet to learn while he was giving whatever in a Bible study there in Pasadena. He didn't speak

all that often at that point in time, but when he did, you'd think that's the place you want to be. But they didn't have that spirit. They didn't have that attitude. That's rather mind-boggling. They forgot.

Remember through whom you learned the truth. That's why in Laodicea, as it went along, he became known as "a great teacher." "I learned a lot of things from him." Think, "You learned everything through him, you fool! You're so foolish because of your choices now. You learned everything you know! You didn't know anything about the truth and what was true except through God's apostle at that time during Philadelphia!" That's the way God taught. That's the way He worked.

It didn't come through the evangelists, though some started different ideas. I think of one who began to get these different ideas about going to doctors and using medicine and whatever. He hurt the Church so much because of those teachings. He taught it at Ambassador, and these then became ministers and went out in the field and began to teach some of that garbage. And it got to the point where even here in Cincinnati, the minister that we had, that I was under for a time, made people feel guilty if they were sick and had an illness. It was like "You've committed some sin." That's the very thing Christ condemned some of those in scripture here about. That you judge people? "Because you must be blind, you must be crippled because of some sin that you or your parents committed!" I mean, that's sick. And so, "Unless you're repentant of sin and find that sin, you're going to stay sick."

I remember a woman who was in a hospital down in Kentucky. I think it was a bladder, wasn't it, or something? Gallbladder? And horribly sick. And he made her feel so guilty for being there, for seeking help, of something that God gave mankind the ability to do on a physical plane. Incredible.

Anyway, I get worked up about these things because I think about our history, I think about how human beings think, and how people go off base sometimes, forgetting, not understanding how God works. And yet it's so basic all the way through. Anyway.

So, a dispute arose, "The way I see it." And that's what happens. So what does that mean? It means people are elevated in their thinking. They become lifted up that their thinking is better than someone else's. And it really becomes dangerous then when it gets to the point where they begin to think it's better than Herbert Armstrong's. Because that's how people thought. That's why some of the teachers at Ambassador College began to think they could teach things differently than what he taught.

Like Dr. Hoeh. (Shouldn't even call him doctor.) And he began to teach 14/15th Passover to all those ministers, who took it with them, who really believed it but knew that it wasn't being taught in the Church. But they believed it because of what he taught them. And then, when the opportunity they felt arose where they could start teaching it, especially after the Apostasy, that's what they started teaching, 14/15th Passover.

Think, how could that happen to someone with God's spirit? Well, there's the teacher in itself. It won't. It can't. Shows how they were cut off already.

Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest. It's a common thing in the human mind to elevate ourselves to think we're above others, we're better than others. And you better recognize it as well. Wrong spirit, wrong way of thinking. And so, they elevated themselves and began to think that they deserve certain things, certain things that they should be recognized for, what they believe, what they thought. And sometimes people begin to follow that, which is sad.

It's what happened here around 2012 and 2013, and a few began to teach or to tell others certain things to the point they finally had their own Bible studies. You think, where does that come from? Mind-boggling.

Now Joshua, perceiving the thought of their heart... So, He knew. Because God gave it to Him in His mind to know what they were thinking. Awesome! God knows our minds. He knows what we're thinking. Some stories go along here in a little bit, He knows what they're saying. When there's a need to know, God gave Him the ability to know this is what's going on. God does that from time to time. Amazing.

And then some people think, "Well, you don't understand." I get that, have gotten that a lot through time, and even in this time. "You don't know what I'm going through." "You don't understand my situation." More than you'll ever know.

And said to them, whoever receives this little child in My name receives Me. So that's how He began to address some of this. Some were lifted up above others because they didn't have a right mindset at all in their thinking.

And whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you all will be great. So He's talking about an attitude and a spirit of mind. If we don't have a humble spirit, if we don't see things in the right way, and how God works in our lives, and especially within the Church, that we're all in the Church of God. If we've been baptized, that's where we're supposed to be. Whether we're all there, I don't know. God reveals sometimes when some aren't, and then we know what happens then.

But as a whole, that's the way we should see one another. We're God's children. We're all in the Church. We're all begotten by God, and we are to be exceedingly, exceedingly careful about how we think about one another and how we judge one another. Be really careful about the word judgment, period, when it comes to one another within the Body. There's a way that God has in working with that if there's something wrong.

But so often it's not a matter of things being wrong, it's just a matter of our human nature, that we feel we know the answers, that we see how things should be done, and so that's what comes out of us. And so, He's telling them, "Your thinking is wrong. You're messed up," in essence. Now, they didn't grasp it yet. Human nature, they didn't even have God's spirit working within them; they were being drawn by God's spirit. So, we have to laugh a little bit about human nature sometimes, realizing what we're like as

human beings, because even with God's spirit, we're still like that. We have sometimes to fight that, those kinds of things.

And those should be the things so far removed from us. We should be at a point where we so hate pride, not in others, in ourselves. It's easy to find and see pride in others, oftentimes, and judge that and be harsh about that, and fail to see in the mirror, fail to look into the mirror and see ourselves. Because we all have that human nature where we need to strive for humility and not be lifted up in our thinking above others.

So again, **verse 47—Now, Joshua, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a child and set him by Him, and said to them, whoever receives this little child in My name receives Me.** So His example is about the Church and what's going to come later on, and how we should be thinking about people and one another.

And whoever receives Me, receives Him who sent Me. So there's an order of things, how things go. So, we could take that to Herbert Armstrong and whoever received him, word he had, because it came through him, received Christ, received God. It's as simple as that. That's how it works.

None of us do it on our own. None of us are separate. There is order in the way God works. And some people don't like that. Some people think, "Well..." Anyway, I don't want to even go into it.

For he who is least among you all will be great.

Going over to Mark 9:30 now. Now, there's a lot that happened in these last two to three weeks, three weeks, possibly, in through there when this starts happening, because this moved fairly rapidly as they were going down toward Jerusalem, as things began here. And quite incredible when you see all that He... We're not even going into all the things that He taught. Even in last Sabbath's sermon and some of the things that He taught before that, there's so much there. So much was given in the last month and a half of His life. Incredible what God saved for a moment in time, and then it was time.

Now He was teaching before that, but it wasn't coupled with as many miracles or the magnitude of them, which drew more people. And then He began to teach more to the crowds, to people by the thousands who came. Awesome. And even to His own disciples. There were things they didn't grasp, but He taught them all along. And in time, one day, God would bring it all to their mind. On the Day of Pentecost, it would start flooding into their minds. Now they could see. Awesome.

Mark 9:30—And they departed from there – this is from the area of Caesarea Philippi – **and passed through Galilee.** So again, going down on the left here of the Sea of Galilee, as I'm looking at the map, to the left, on the west side of the Sea of Galilee.

...and He preferred that no one know it. Because they already had so many people, thousands, trying to find Him, wanting to be healed. And your heart goes out to them. That's why there was such compassion

there about so many people coming and seeing the shape... But that in itself was pressure, almost overwhelming.

...but He preferred that no one know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. This builds up more and more and more.

After He is killed, He will rise the third day. Sometimes people have trouble with this when it talks about the third day. Well, yes, it's in the third day because the 72 hours have to happen. So it happened right there at the end of that point in time, so it is the third. **But they did not understand that saying and were afraid to ask Him.** So again, bringing up this idea of mind. More is reported here by Mark and said by Mark. So, it shows this thinking that's going on and how it troubled them, but they didn't get it.

Verse 33—Then He came to Capernaum and... So again, they've come down the northern part of the Jordan River, down to the area right north of Galilee, Sea of Galilee, and starting to travel farther down into Galilee now on the west side of the lake, or the sea, I should say, of Galilee.

So, then He came to Capernaum, and being in the house, He asked them, What was it that you disputed? So “contending about,” “your divisive reasoning,” what was it? He already knows that it was going on. So now He just asked them, **What was it that you disputed, that you were reasoning among yourselves on the way? But they held their peace, for on the way they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest.** So again here, it's presented in a different way, but now it adds a little bit more, showing more that was said and stated about the matter. So, He knew already in His mind that this was going on, and then when He got there, this is what He asked them because He knew what was taking place.

So He sat down and called the twelve and said to them, If anyone desires to be first, the same shall be last of all and servant of all. It's a different mindset. It's not about self and lifting up self and self having to be first. That's what we have to learn to fight against. That's our battle, conquering that kind of thinking, because that's selfish thinking, inward thinking. God's is one that is outgoing and caring of others, and, if you will, as a matter of service. Christ was getting ready to fulfill the greatest, to die for everyone. You can't have greater service than that, as far as life is concerned.

And so, we learn from these principles and these truths. Well, at least we should. God gives us that opportunity.

So again, it's a matter of a mindset and how we think, and God's way is totally different from our way, from the way we think. And this is a part of what He's addressing here: “If anyone desires to be first, the same shall be last of all and servant of all.” In other words, we have to learn how to think that way. How can we help? Not what we can get.

I hate that kind of mindset, that kind of thinking, when people want more. Because we saw it in its ugliest form. Many of us sitting here saw it in its ugliest form when an individual got up, who was

supposed to be leading God's Church, and said, "You can do better than that! Louder! You're cheering, you're clapping. You can do it better, and you can do it longer! More!" I mean, that should just scream out to us what human nature is like. How ugly. I mean, horribly ugly. It's like being vomited upon. That's ugly. It smells, it stinks, and it should. And it should be that repulsive to us to even think about such an example.

And this is what Christ is teaching. Don't try to be first. Don't try to be the greatest. Don't try to be looked up to. We have so much that we've been given of God, by God, and so often it's never fully grasped as it should be, to the level it should be. We are so rich. We are so well... Especially in this age. There's never been a time when people have received more, when we've had more, as far as what God has given – for a purpose, because it's getting ready for Christ's coming.

We're a part of being prepared for what has to be done here before Christ returns, and as He returns. God is doing it. It's about God and what God is doing, and Christ is doing in preparation for that. And we're blessed to have part in that. It's awesome. We don't have to raise ourselves up. Do we not...?

To think we might be, some of us will be a part of the 144,000? What do we want in this life but to humble ourselves, to understand what we've been given, and to fight for this? To fight for what God has placed before us, and letting us know what is ahead of us. And then those who have opportunity to live on? Because there are going to be a lot who can't, and especially a lot who've had opportunity who can't. Just like what happened in the wilderness with all the people who couldn't go into the promised land. Choices, choices, choices.

So again, **If anyone desires to be first, the same shall be last of all and servant of all. Then He took a child and set him in the midst of them. Now, when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, whoever will receive one of such child in My name receives Me.** It's beautiful. We understand it on a spiritual plane. **And whoever shall receive Me, receives not Me, but Him who sent Me.** Because it all goes back to God, a matter of God's will, of God's purpose, and yielding ourselves to that process.

Then, some of the same account in Matthew 17. So, the more some of these things are recorded by more individuals, we should grasp the greater importance of it. **Matthew 17:22—Now, while they had turned aside in Galilee...** In other words, on their way down from Capernaum. **...Joshua said to them, The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And the third day He will be raised up. Then they were exceedingly sorrowful.** So again, adding something different here about some of what Christ was saying, because He said this more than once as they were traveling.

When they had come to Capernaum, it says here, **those who received the temple tax came to Peter and said, Does your Teacher not pay the temple tax?** So, I think of this attitude. Raunchy, raunchy, sick attitude. So often they tried to trip Him up. So often they tried to find fault. So often they wanted to find things that they could twist to say something their own way. If He healed on the Sabbath, to see what He would do, and if He did, because they heard that He had, then they would find fault. Because their

teaching was “This isn't of God. God wouldn't allow such work to be done on the Sabbath, that someone should be healed. Because that's work!” I'm sorry, but some of this stuff just drives you nuts.

And I can't help but think about all that's out there today. It's so hard to watch news because it's a mindset of the world today, of people trying to tear apart others, warring, finding fault. Nobody's perfect by any measure, and so it's easy to find fault in human beings, easy to find things that are misspoken, because we're human beings, and twisting and distorting things that are said.

I was watching some news here today, and I thought... They were saying that someone said something a certain way. And “You liar! That isn't what they said. That isn't the way they said it. You twisted and distorted it totally. You've misquoted it.” Why? Well, because they want them to look a certain way. They want other people to see them in a certain way.

That's why you have to be so careful what you listen to, because everyone has a mindset that's human, not guided by God's spirit, and they will protect self and self-interests and self-beliefs.

It's just like today, what's going on between the Pope and the President. Think, man. I think of the time when it says Europe is going to turn against him. Europe is going to get to the point where there's going to be an absolute change in mindset towards that place. God's going to allow it to happen, powerfully so. And we see just a little bit of it, how some of that can be stirred up very quickly just by what's happening now.

Because now it's bringing in an entire religion that's the largest of Christianity, so-called, and people are making choices here, even within that. Some taking side with one, even within that. And some taking side with the other. And, incredible what's happening. Minds. Judgments. We're watching things prophetically come to pass more and more. Because it's a spirit that's there, and God's allowing that spirit to build up more and more in a spirit world as they influence others. Incredible.

Like Europe. Think, how much worse can it get? It's going to get a lot worse. I feel sorry for them. I feel sorry for what they're going through because... And for this country too. You think of how nuts so many large numbers of people are becoming. Nuts, wacky, weird, far out, believing things you think, “How can your mind...” But we should know how. It's incredible.

I hate what we're seeing taking place, but it has to come to pass. It has to be manifest. It has to be allowed to go its full course in order to bring about what has to happen here at the end of the age. And we're watching it take place a little bit at a time, but it's speeding up faster and faster, gaining momentum faster and faster.

Who was it? I can't think of his name right now – leader of Spain making a comment that they have come to the conclusion that global peace is threatened far more by Trump than Putin. Okay? Well...? Anyway. But there's a movement there as well where they're turning in that direction in their thinking. Socialists. Not even that necessarily. There's, I don't know, certain Marxism involved in some of the

thinking that's taking... But even governments within Europe are starting to change their attitude, and this ability to get along, this ability to survive... The only thing that's going to push them more is because of what we've already seen taking place.

Like within NATO. It's kind of down the toilet already. And you think, to see this come about in the way we have, we've seen something incredible, something prophetic that's in motion. To think we would be coming to this point in time, where we would see governments changing all over the world in the way that they are to lead up to what has to come to pass. We should be able to see far more clearly now how it's going to happen, that it's going to happen the way God says. Because there was a time there when it didn't look like... "Well, how could this...? How is this going to happen?" But knowing that it will. And now we see how more and more.

Human beings, we are a mess. We really are. Our nature, our thinking. It's a marvel that God can work with us. I can marvel at it with this. And yet God has a process whereby we can be changed, where our minds can be changed, transformed, if we yield ourselves to it because we want it, because we see what the alternative is, the world the way it is now. It's just getting exposed more for what it really is, has always been. Now we're able to see it more because it's on TV all the time, all the lunacy, the craziness, the unsound minds.

Now there are even professors in universities. That's how far it goes. There are professors in universities that teach young people, that influence young people in a very powerful way—there's a lot of power there—and they have misused it to where there's so much garbage out there now. Then they leave and they go out and they start spewing the same things and magnify it even more. People are going nuts. Anyway, I don't know about you, but it's hard to watch. Sigh and cry.

And this is a part of what Christ saw on a spiritual plane within all the people, of what human nature is like. Failing to believe God, failing to believe in God, failing to believe in the Son of God, failing to believe in certain things, that if miracles are being done how can that happen? How is that taking place? How can a human being...? What human being has ever done those things? Choices, choices, choices.

So again, "in the third day He will rise. Then they were exceedingly sorrowful. And when they'd come to Capernaum," again, "this tax collect," this, they asked about... I'm sorry, question was asked, **came to Peter and said, does your Teacher not pay the temple tax? He said, yes. Now, when he had come into the house, Joshua anticipated him saying, What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes? From their sons or from strangers?** Again, I marvel here because He already knew. Again, God gave Him these things —perceptions of people, what they're thinking, what to address, how to address it. Incredible.

So again, **From whom do you think the kings of the earth take customs or taxes? From their sons or from strangers? Peter said to him, from strangers. Joshua said to him, Then the sons are free. Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in the hook, and take the fish that comes up**

first. So when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money. Take that and give it to them for Me and you. Incredible. “Go catch a fish, reach into its mouth, and there's going to be the money that you need to take and pay so that they can see it, so that they can know this is from us, we're paying the temple tax.” Crazy, crazy human beings and how people think.

But anyway, again, trying to find fault, trying to see what the answer might be that's going to be given, and Christ here just gives more understanding of what the whole thing is all about, and what the whole process is all about, and what human beings are really like.

Let's turn over to Luke 9 now. Things have moved along steadily after they'd been up in the area of Caesarea Philippi, where the transfiguration took place. Again, we just covered in these different books here how they were leaving the area and traveling southward into the northeastern part of the Galilee and down to Capernaum. It's here that Joshua then sent disciples down into the eastern parts of Samaria. So they were to go out ahead of Him because now the journey is going to pick up a little faster.

So, He sends some of them out ahead of Him because He's going on His way to Jerusalem. He doesn't tell exactly how He's going there (we're going through that story), but He tells them to go down into Samaria, which is just down below Galilee. So, if you look on the map, you'll see Galilee towards the north here and Samaria towards the south. And they're getting ready to travel southward, so they have to go through this region. And He's saying to go out ahead, that there were things they were to do, part of what I'd mentioned earlier about some of the teaching and even of healing and so forth, but to prepare the way, that basically, Christ is coming, that this is a part of the one who's been healing people and so forth. And so, He wanted that noise abroad in that particular area.

So again here, it says, **Luke 9:51—Now it came to pass that when the time had come for Him to be taken up.** So what it's saying here in the Greek language just means “ascension” or “being taken up.” So, He knows His time is at hand. He's going to Jerusalem for a purpose. He knows what that purpose is – to die as the Passover for all mankind. And so, this is the particular phrase that's being used here.

Now it came to pass that the time had come for Him to be taken up. Not right then, but this is the time period they're in. That's why He's traveling south and going on to Jerusalem here. Because it's going to happen at a specific time, in a specific way, and He's already telling them some of these things. So, that's why this particular word is used, very specific, “ascension” or “being taken up.”

...that He steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem. So this is His mindset. Absolutely. Because He knows His purpose. He knows why He's there. He knows who He is as the Son of God and what He is to accomplish. **And He sent messengers before His face. Then, as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare or make ready for Him,** in His travels to come down through there. **But they did not receive Him, because His face, as it says, was set for the journey to Jerusalem.**

Now, I don't understand this fully of why it says it this way. Perhaps that the purpose was that He was to pass on through because the time is getting short and there's no purpose in stopping in Samaria now but to travel on through, so they weren't given certain abilities, if you will, amongst these people. And so, it made His travels easier because His mind is already set. And that's the most logical thing that it seems to be talking about here. And so not fully 100% clear, but they didn't stay in Samaria but traveled through it on southward, as it'll show here.

Let me make sure I'm not getting ahead of myself. So, now we're going to jump ahead quite a bit here as far as the scriptures are concerned. We're going over from Luke 9 to Luke 17. So, after these verses in Luke 9 there's much teaching recorded in the book of Luke, if you will. Luke records that Christ gave certain things to the disciples and so forth. And then all the way down, finally, in chapter 17... You can read these things yourself, but there's a lot written through there in that period of time.

It then continues showing how that this journey was taking place through the eastern part of Samaria. So again here, they didn't just shoot down into Samaria there. On the eastern side of Samaria, they've been coming down by through Galilee here on the western side of the Sea of Galilee, passing on through there, and now coming down to the eastern side of Samaria.

And from this point, a lot of miracles. They just, more and more as He's traveling through these areas. More and more. And more and more people. The word is spreading faster and faster throughout the regions ahead of Him. So, more miracles begin to be performed by Joshua.

Luke 17:11—Now, it happened as He was on His way toward Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. So, I'd say it Galilee and Samaria because He's going south, but it says Samaria first. But the point being is here, it's still south of there, and He passed through the rest of those areas as He was heading south.

Then He entered a certain village, and there met Him ten men who were lepers who stood afar off. So again, people with leprosy, they kept their distance. They were kept away by others, and nobody wanted that. And a lot of different ideas about some of these kinds of things and what would happen, what could happen. And so, again here, they stood afar off, feeling of things about themselves and how they were received by others, and knowing that this is what they were to do.

Now, they lifted up their voices and said, Joshua! So, this wasn't something small. They're standing back quite a ways as opposed to some others who came right up to Him. And they're hollering these things out, very much so, to be heard. **Joshua, Master, have compassion on us!** So, they're hollering these things out.

So when He saw them, He said to them, Go, show yourselves to the priest. Then so it was, that as they went, went on their way, says **they were cleansed.** So that's all He told them. "Go show yourself to the

priest.” And they did what He said. So, can speculate about some of the reasons why, but... Anyway, just simple instructions, and so, they left to do just that.

Then one of them... So, here they are going, that's what they're going to go do, and then one of them... They were healed, and so one of them responded. And we know the story, but it's awesome. **Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned and, with a loud voice, praising God.** So, just like some who, when they were. It doesn't matter what they were healed of; that's just the automatic response.

Because people didn't overcome things. Like some who were blind from death, from birth, death, all the things, crippled, whatever it might be, or at some point in their life, and all of a sudden to be healed, and of leprosy? And how the disdain that they received from other people around them, and what they had to feel inside themselves because of what they were carrying on their bodies? It's an ugly thing. It's not a pleasant thing to see.

And here, they just start their process of going to the priest, and right away, when he sees that he's healed, does what he should do. What a normal human being you think would definitely do. **...and with a loud voice praising God, and fell down on his face at His feet,** at Christ's feet. So he returned immediately. And this attitude of humility and this attitude of thinking that he'd been healed, and knowing that he'd been healed, and recognizing where it came from. These things don't just happen. He was just told to go to the priest and present himself to them. But he came back because he saw he was already healed just by what He had to say and what He told them.

...fell again on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Not of anyone with Israel, not of Jewish descent, Benjamin, or the tribes or Levite, in lineage, a Samaritan.

So Joshua answered and said, Were there not ten cleansed? So all this thing... All that had been noised abroad there in some of those areas, especially from areas of Galilee where so many of Jews and different ones had migrated to, had stayed or lived in. And then some of this area of Samaria, where so many of the Samaritans stayed. And then you go on down into Judah, if you will. And yet, even through Samaria, so many things that they heard. Because they're on both sides of where different ones are that talk about God, that have a history of this in that region, and... Anyway, he was one of them, this particular leper.

And so Christ asked them, Were there not ten cleansed? So where are the nine? So again here, this is all for a purpose, being written, being recorded, being stated, again, as a teaching tool. And He knows the answers. He knows exactly what happened. One came back, nine didn't. So, asking it to make it known to everyone else who is listening, where are the rest?

Were there not any found who returned to give praise to God except this foreigner? Not of any lineage having anything to do with Judah? **Then He said to them, Arise, go your way, your faith has made you**

well. Meaning he practiced what he was told. Very simple. But this is what faith is. If you're given something to believe, he believed what he was told to do was to go present himself to the priest, and then he came back and he praised God. He recognized where it came from.

It wasn't a matter of the others who just went off and maybe found some other reason or all of a sudden they're healed. Didn't care, didn't want to believe in anything else except what they had all their life anyway. So, just filled with selfishness. But this one here returned and praised God, thanked God, and acknowledged the one through whom it came, Joshua. Awesome. A Samaritan.

And so again here, he believed, especially when he came back and bowed down like he did before Him. And Christ said, "Go your way. Your faith... You believed, and you lived according to what you believe." That's what faith is. "And you're made whole."

Mark 10. So again, in their travels all the way down from Caesarea Philippi way to the north, down past the Sea of Galilee, on down into Samaria. Then in Mark 10, it simply records, is recorded in this manner here. **Mark 10:1—Then He rose up from there and came to the border of Judea.** So, it skips it all. So everybody writes in a little bit different way.

And so, this is what it's talking about. This is when He began to make that movement southward all the way then from a far northern point, and from that point on moving southward.

And finally came to the border of Judea by the other side of the Jordan River. Then the multitude gathered to Him again, and as He was accustomed, He taught them again. So, if you look at the map there of Samaria, the one where it's divided more clearly here, Galilee, Samaria, and then Judea, they came down to this point on the western side of the Jordan River. They came that far down in Samaria up to the border on the northern corner, northeastern corner of Judah. And this is where they cross over to the other side and start coming down on the eastern side of the Jordan River. So, this is a part of the journey and where it's going, and that's why it's written in the manner that it is.

So, it says, **He arose there.** Speaking of being all the way to the north, they came down here all the way to the border of Judah or Judea by the other side of the Jordan. **Then multitudes gathered to Him again, and as He was accustomed, He taught them again.** So, only a little of the travel into Samaria is mentioned here. They pass through very quickly. Again, believing here it's a matter of being expeditious in doing so because there's not a lot of time. He's got to keep... His mind is focused on getting down to Jerusalem, so it's just as well that things turned out the way they did, obviously.

So, rather than staying in that area, they continued south and then east until they reached the borders of Judah, and then they crossed over to the other side. That's why it talks about...it says it here in the way that it does on the other side of the Jordan, because they're getting ready to cross over.

Mark 10:32, jumping all the way down to verse 32. **Now, as they were on the road going...** not up to, but **toward** as it is here. It's a better translation by far. **...on their way to Jerusalem. And Joshua was going**

before them. And they were astonished. And as they followed, they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him. So again here, He kept telling them at different times here they're going to Jerusalem. They weren't nuts about this because they heard of all the rumors and the attitudes of things and how Christ was being perceived by them, especially the leaders of Judah, if you will.

And so, it talks about the disciples here. "And as they followed, they were afraid." They were probably a little relieved when He went across the river to the other side and didn't go into Judea.

So again here, the twelve, again, says, "then He took the 12 aside," again, "and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him." So here, making it clear again, **verse 33—Behold, we are going on our way to Jerusalem.** He spells it out totally, clearly. **And the Son of Man will be betrayed by the or of the chief priests or to the chief priests and to the scribes. Then they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles.** In essence, to the Romans. **Then they will mock Him and scourge Him and spit on Him and kill Him. Now, the third day He will rise again.** They didn't understand all this. He said these things, they responded in fear at different times in the way they thought. They wanted to take Him away from the idea of going there at all because of the way the Jews were talking and rumors that were going out.

Matthew 20, picking up the story, **Matthew 20:17—Now, Joshua going on the way toward Jerusalem took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, Behold, we're going up to Jerusalem and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock, to scourge, and to impale to a pole.** So again, getting more specific here: not just a matter of death, but specifically how it's going to take place, what's going to happen.

Then the third day, He will rise again. They didn't know what that meant. They had no idea. Because as soon as He was dead, they didn't know what they were going to do. Where are we going to go? Some, go back to fishing, go back to what we did before? Because He's gone. It didn't happen the way they thought it was going to happen.

So again, what follows immediately in both Matthew and Mark is a lesson where the disciples still needed more instruction concerning pride and the carnal desire to be greater than the others or others. So, it addressed it before; it's going to address it again.

We're to learn from these things. Very basic. We're to understand it in its spirit. God has given us the ability to understand these things in a spirit plane, spiritual plane, not just a physical one and what He was telling them. Because that's all they could hear at that point in time, was that which was physical. They didn't grasp any spirit involved in any of this, as far as the mind is concerned, see it for what it really is.

Mark 10:35—Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him, saying, Teacher, we want You to do for us that which we ask. “There's something here we'd like to have, and this is what we want to ask You.”

So He said to them, What do you want, in essence, **for Me to do to you or do for you? And they said to Him, grant us that we may sit one on Your right hand and the other on Your left in Your glory.** “When You become the Messiah, when You become the ruler, when You are the King,” that's what they were saying, “put one on Your right and one on Your left so we can serve You in this manner.”

You've got to marvel at the audacity of human nature. To do something like this, to be of that kind of a mindset to be so bold as to say something like this. Now, they didn't grasp things like we do in the Church, but sadly, there have been many through the Church, not a few, many, many people who have gone down this road. Wanting to be lifted up, having different things in their mind about what it means to be lifted up, to be looked up to, not understanding the lessons of what we learn through the process of everything that God takes us through so we can learn these lessons one way or the other.

Sometimes people are given something that they lust for and desire and have to learn the hard way because that's the best way for them to learn. Some go through that process and never learn. And then there's the other side of the coin that happens the other way. God works with us to mold and fashion us, but it's up to us to make the choices to respond to the things we hear and what God tells us at specific times and through the kinds of experiences we go through.

Because this has been perpetual in the Church of God, perpetual process, ongoing process, people wanting to be recognized, people wanting to be seen, thinking one thing is better than the other. Not grasping what they already have, that it's a matter of learning, it's a matter of being molded in fashion regardless of what we go through and how we go through it. And if God wants somebody to be in a specific spot to do a specific thing, it'll happen the way He wants it to happen. But to want or desire or to lust after those things is really sick, of things that we raise up in our minds.

I think of the women, again, in Detroit, who got mad at each other, who got in an argument because of who it was going to be responsible for the great job of bringing in the cookies. Who is going to be over that? Mind-boggling!

I think of people who wanted to perpetuate certain jobs. I think of one who became an elder in the Toledo area, who felt that when we had a Feast of Tabernacles, or when we... No, this was even before that, before we'd even split up or split off and went in that direction up in Canada at our first Feast of Tabernacles. Before that, it was just on the Holy Days. We need to have (this came out in meetings), we need to have greeters at the door so that more people have more responsibilities. We need to have people in the parking lot to help park cars because that's what they used to do in the past when there were so many people. But now we don't even have enough to fill all the chairs in the hall, but let's have greeters at the door, because shouldn't that be what we have, greeters at the door?

Can you imagine us having greeters at the door? For what purpose? Don't you know each other? But it's the idea that, "Oh, they're important. They're there for that position, for that purpose." "Oh, look, they're telling us how to park the car. I'm so thankful they're out here." I'm being very facetious. But, you know, it just shows how the human mind can be.

And this individual, of course, deep down inside, always wanted more. Lied. He was there when I had two elders there and told them, "You don't have time. You have to make a choice now, what you're going to do." And he was there and saw all that. I'll tell a little bit more. Had the responsibility of making sure that things were paid for by the church, checks, and so forth. Didn't know until later on, after they were already out, that he was paying his wife double what she should have. Wasn't it double?

And how could someone do something like that, saying they're in the Church, using God's money, and doing something that wasn't determined and wasn't decided at that time was a responsibility that they could do? But it shows where the heart is, where the mind is. And yet wanting more authority? Oh, I could tell you so much more. It would blow your mind, but some of it I'd have to explain more deeply.

Human nature can be ugly. It has been ugly. When it turns ugly, it's bad. When it turns to self and trying to esteem self, like I had one individual... I'm just saying some of these things because it shows what they wanted all along. One individual, who was a graduate of Ambassador College, and wanted everybody to know it. And then when it came time to decide who was going to be speaking at the Feast... Of course, there's one person who gave out those assignments. The church didn't decide who was going to speak at the Feast, I did. And he didn't get an assignment. And he thought he should have one, and basically came up to me and said, "Who do you think you are?" That's basically what he said. "Who do you think you are? I'm not speaking? I should give a sermonette! I should be able to give a sermonette, an Ambassador College graduate," in essence. It just shows why you're not speaking. Because of what he really wanted. He wanted to be seen. He wanted to be heard.

Individuals who wanted more and more. This lust for power, this desire to be seen because we raise up certain jobs or functions in our mind because that's what we want, is sick. It isn't God. It isn't God's mind. And yet it exists. And if that ever happens to anyone, fight against it with all your being. Repent constantly until it's conquered and overcome because it, well, it stinks really bad. And I could just go... I could spend... I could go well over time today telling you example after example after example of things that have just happened since the Apostasy, not even telling you stories that happened in Worldwide during Laodicea between ministers and people in the Church and things they lusted after and wanted in desiring recognition and the battles that went on and the backbiting that went on. It's horrible.

So, by the time we got to the end of Laodicea, toward the end, is no shock in looking back that we had an Apostasy. Because our condition was hideous. And so much of this kind of mindset was there. People wanting more than what they had, not realizing what they'd already been able to have that was given

through Herbert Armstrong. But let so much of that go by the wayside, and wanted something else. Recognition more than truth. That's pretty sick.

So, it's been ongoing in the Church for ages. You know what's really sad? I think of occasions where people were ordained to a physical job—it was called deacon or deaconess—just to serve in the church in a physical capacity, but it was an ordination at one time within the church to serve in that capacity. And then, elders, local elders, who might be ordained in a particular area.

And I think of how so often when those ordinations took place, as a whole, without doubt, and something we warn people about would happen, “You're going to have friends who are no longer your friends, because they're jealous, because they think you're undeserving,” whatever it might be in their minds. And those of you who have gone through the things of Worldwide, you know that's true. You've seen those things happen, where people wouldn't treat...

I know one individual here in PKG who was an elder and was upset when a good close friend of his was made an evangelist. And he was no longer, from that point on, a good close friend. Then he finally trailed off and started having these little Bible studies. Think, what a sick, sick, sick mind. But that's what pride does. That's what lust for power does. That's what raising ourselves up higher, not understanding what we already have.

We are the begotten children of God Almighty! We have a portion of God in our minds and in our being, and of Joshua the Christ. How much more do we want? Do we think that something physical is going to be greater than what we've been given? Do we grasp? Sadly, the point is many have never grasped those things, how blessed they really were, what they really had, that God is the one who gives us everything according to His purpose and will.

Anyway, I'm prone to continue to give examples, but I'll stop because probably wouldn't be able to shut me up. And every one of them makes me feel sick. I just feel sick inside thinking about those kinds of things that have happened, that people will do that kind of thing above and beyond God's love. Because you take away God's love when you take away God's spirit because you want something that you're not supposed to have, not intended to have. You lust after, you desire more than what you already have been given of God's life in you. And the fellowship that we have, that we have a body of like-minded individuals who are begotten of God's holy spirit, brothers and sisters on a spiritual plane that's far above and beyond what you can have in a physical relationship.

I learned that a long, long time ago, thank God. I guess because... Well, I won't go into that.

But we all come from different backgrounds. And it doesn't take long when you learn that what we have in God's Church is so awesome. To have people who are closer than you can have of your own physical families? Because this is a power that binds in a way that physical relationships never can. That which is

on a spiritual plane. That which is intended to go into eternal or everlasting life. Awesome, what God's placed before us.

So, an age-old thing that just continues to happen. Desire for power. I think of all the ministers that used to argue with one another as to who had the largest territory, of who was, if they're close on the border, who should come to their church area because they wanted more numbers. That happened here in Cincinnati. I saw it. I heard it. I witnessed it. Think, what's wrong with you? Is it that important? It is if you're filled with pride and you want to be looked up to as the most important one in the area. (Sorry.)

Verse 37—They said to Him, Grant us that we may sit on Your right hand and on Your left in Your glory.

That's what we just got through talking about then, that lust. And they weren't converted; they didn't have God's spirit. And I think of all the people who've had God's spirit that did that in an atrocious way, worse than they did. But those people never understood this.

But Joshua said to them, You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink?

What He was getting ready to go through? No, they weren't called to that. That wasn't their purpose. That wasn't their calling. But what was in front of them was awesome indeed. Though almost every one of them is going to die in a horrible way. In part, they kind of drank of that cup because they were put to death in horrible ways. Even to the point head cut off, on a stake, upside down. Horrible what human beings can do to human beings.

“Are you able to drink the cup that I drink?” Your calling isn't the same. It's not for the same purpose. When God calls us, there's a place He's going to put us. There's a purpose in why He calls us. There's a place He molds and fashions us to fit into. Every one of the 144,000 have an absolute specific place! There's not going to be a nail left over somewhere, a bolt that wasn't put in its right place, if you understand what I'm saying.

There's a commercial on TV right now that we kind of like. This guy standing there so proud, I think it's insurance, or whatever, and there's this fountain there, and he's put this whole thing together. And he's bragging to his wife, and I had a couple screws left over. And then they turn the thing on, and it starts to come out with water that's spurting out. And she says, "Is it supposed to do that?" And then all of a sudden it shoots out and hits him in the face. So it's like... Anyway, crazy, crazy.

God has a purpose for why we're called. Why should we resist God? Everyone who has ever wanted something different, everyone who thought they deserved something different, everyone who fought for something that wasn't, that was different, they're not with us. God weeds it out. He takes care of it because that can't be in His Family. It can't be amongst the 144,000. That's why some had to be worked with now that have taken, are taking those crowns that were there. Awesome. Awesome opportunity for different ones that are being molded in fashion now for that purpose. I love it.

We just don't grasp sometimes what God has given to us. He's in charge. Leave yourself in His hands. He's the one that raises us up. That's what He says. He is the one who will raise us up and put us in places and do things. We have opportunities that we can't even begin to grasp. There's not going to be jealousies in God's Family, envy in God's Family. That isn't of God. It's just a matter of unity, of working together in ways that benefit each other as the Body.

That's why I love how Paul talked about it. You know, parts of the body, thankfully, don't argue with each other as who has what, and I want to be the ear, I want to be the eye, I want to be, you know. Thankfully, it works without argument. Now, sometimes it does, and sometimes you have to go to the doctor and get someone to take care of...

Are you able to drink the cup that I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized? They said to Him, We are able. So Joshua said to them, You will indeed drink the cup that I drink. And with the baptism I am baptized with, you will be baptized. They're going to receive the impregnation of God's holy spirit. **But to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but for whom it is prepared.** That's why I say God knows where He's putting everything in the building. We've been called to fit into it in an exact place, being molded and fashioned to fit in perfectly.

Now, when we see that on a spiritual plane, that's a beautiful thing to grasp. You wouldn't want to be anywhere else if you understood that. It's where we fit. It'll be exciting and inspiring in ways that we can't even begin to comprehend, all working together in a beautiful way, above and beyond what our puny, sick little minds can grasp as human beings, even with God's spirit.

Mark 10:41, it goes on to say, **But when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John.** Now, that's a great attitude, isn't it? "How could you do that? How could you ask that?" Now they're judging in a way that they went off base, too.

But Joshua called to them and said to them, You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them. I hate that. I hate that. This area here has been lorded over in the past in horrible ways. People who have misused their positions. That minister I was referring to earlier lorded it over as many as he could, even within the ministry and within headquarters. He always thought he had a better way and a better idea about how certain things should be, from those even who came out from headquarters. Think, oh, give me a break.

...rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. There are people who are just like that. I shouldn't keep adding to this, but when I cross the border, oftentimes I have to be careful of what I say, going between the border up north. Because sometimes there are people in those positions who just love power, and I don't react well to that. And a couple of times it's gotten me in trouble.

Yet it shall not be so among you. And yet, this is one of the worst things I've seen happen in God's Church ever since I've been in it, this desire, this thinking, this misuse of power.

Yet it shall not be so among you. But whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. It's an attitude of mind. It's what's up here. It's how we think. **For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.** To give His life.

That's why I love it how it says it there in John 13 and on, especially John 13. And you begin to read through that, we read through it at Passover period, and He talks about "A new commandment I give to you." And it builds upon the matter of love, to love one another. And He adds something that hasn't been well known by the Church in times past – As. I. Have. Loved. You. To the point of death.

So be it. If that's the purpose, if that's part of it, so be it. We're in God's hands. And that should be the mindset every person has toward one another in the Body.

...and gave His life a ransom for many.

Luke 18. There's also one other account where Christ made it clear to the disciples that they were now going to continue in their journey and travel on toward Jerusalem, and this is Luke's recording of that event.

Luke 18:31—Then He called the twelve and said to them, Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. It's amazing how much you go through and see that there are different things that were done for the purpose of fulfilling what was written long ago.

For He will be delivered unto the Gentiles and will be mocked and spitefully mistreated and spit upon. And they will scourge Him and put Him to death. Then the third day, He will rise again. Now they didn't understand any of these things, and this saying was hidden from them. Neither did they know of the things which were spoken. That's a marvel, again, to understand how God reveals things, and until a particular time that He has chosen to reveal them, and then they're given.

But anyway, this journey to me is exciting, is inspiring, and that's why we're going to continue on through it.