

155 – Whom have you met?

Dismantling life

Today's Verse of the day from Bible Gateway was **Matthew 20:17-19**

17 Now Jesus, being about to go up into Jerusalem, took aside the twelve disciples privately. And on the road He said to them:

18 "Lo! we are going up into Jerusalem, and the Son of Mankind will be given up to the chief priests and scribes, and they will be condemning Him to death.

19 And they will be giving Him up to the nations, to scoff at and scourge and crucify. And the third day He will be roused."

We'll come back to these verses in a minute, but let's keep reading down to verse 24, and then we'll connect some dots that lead all the way to our lives today:

20 Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Him with her sons, worshiping and requesting something from Him.

21 Now He said to her, "What are you wanting?" She is saying to Him, "Say that these, my two sons, should be seated, one at Thy right and one at Thy left, in Thy kingdom."

22 Now answering, Jesus said, "You are not aware what you are requesting. Are you able to be drinking the cup which I am about to be drinking?" They are saying to Him, "We are able."

23 He is saying to them, "My cup, indeed, you shall be drinking. Yet to be seated at My right and at My left is not Mine to give, but is for whom it has been made ready by My Father."

24 And, hearing of it, the ten resent as to the two brothers.

First thing to take note of is that this story begins with Yeshua telling the 12 closest disciples, the ones who have been with him the whole time, that He is GOING to die and, how it's going to happen. This is also the third time He's told them! Let's find the other two:

Matthew 17:22 – this is after the mount of transfiguration and after Yeshua healed the boy with a demon.

22 Now at their conspiring in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Mankind is about to be given up into the hands of men,

23 and they will be killing Him, and the third day He will be roused." And they were tremendously sorry.

The First time Yeshua told the guys He was going to die was right after He'd asked them who they decided He was and Peter said, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living Elohim."

Matthew 16:21

21 Thenceforth begins Jesus to show His disciples that He must be coming away into Jerusalem and to be suffering much from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and to be killed, and the third day to be roused.

What happens next in **Matthew 16** relates back to where we started in **Matthew 20**. Look at it with me, please, beginning in **verse 22** and going through **verse 25**:

Matthew 16:22-25

22 And, taking Him to him, Peter begins to rebuke Him, saying, "Propitious be it to Thee, Lord! By no means shall this be for Thee!"

23 Now, being turned, He said to Peter, "Go away behind Me, sa-tan! A snare are you to Me, for you are not disposed to that which is of God, but that which is of men."

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples: "If anyone is wanting to come after Me, let him renounce himself and pick up his cross and follow Me.

25 For whosoever may be wanting to save his soul shall be destroying it. Yet whoever should be destroying his soul on My account shall be finding it.

"You think you want to follow me," Yeshua asks His boys, "after what I just told you about what's going to happen to me? You might want the 'rousing' part, but you don't have the first clue about everything ahead of it. But, Hey, come on if you can; here's how: give up all rights to yourself. Forget all about having anything to say about your life; give it up; it's not yours anyway; you just think it is. Let the Father have your life entirely; do nothing

unless and until He directs; say nothing unless and until He reveals it to you, and then don't add to it or subtract from it; Go where He sends, Say what He says, Do what He says; and then, pick up your cross – your *own* cross – not My cross...YOUR cross – YOU be accused falsely, ridiculed, beaten, flogged and nailed to die in front of everyone as if you were the worst criminal ever. "Cause here's the thing: if you would rather avoid all that, you'll be destroying your soul – you may think you're alive, but when My Day comes, you won't be there. On the other hand, if you're willing to walk down this road with me, carrying your cross alongside me as I carry mine, you will find out who you really are and why you're really here; and you will fulfill the purpose for which your Father formed you."

That's what I see in what Yeshua told His guys – and this was the FIRST time He'd said anything to them about His dying. And He only told them AFTER Peter confessed Him as Messiah. I'd be willing to bet that if Peter had said anything else, Yeshua would have kept all this to Himself.

Even though Yeshua told His disciples what was coming, He had to tell them THREE times...and even then, they didn't fully grasp it.

Now, let's go back to **Matthew 20**, because His boys still can't get past their own stuff – they still have not renounced themselves and followed Him. They've been walking with Him with their feet, but they haven't been following Him in their hearts. So, Yeshua tells them for the third time that He's going to die, how, and now He's told them it'll be on this trip. What happens next is a couple of the guys get their Mom to put in a word for them – they're only interest is where they get to sit in the kingdom – not that they have any better idea about what that looks like than they understand Yeshua Himself, mind you!

What's the point of all this discussion?

Twelve guys walked side by side with Yeshua for 3½ years; They walked beside a Man – the "Son of Mankind," their Messiah. They even KNEW He was their Messiah; they KNEW He Was the Son of Their Elohim, their Yuh-Heh-Vav-Heh; they KNEW that Yeshua was the One Whom Israel had looked for, waited for, Who had been prophesied about for hundreds of

years! They knew all that, but they were busy in their own minds with their own thoughts; they were busy in their own hearts with their own desires.

Even after everything Yeshua had told them would happen DID happen, they still didn't get it! They didn't believe it when the women said He had risen; Thomas insisted on touching Him and feeling His wounds or He was out of there. Even after Yeshua spent 40 days around them AFTER His resurrection, during which He gave them a couple of simple, clear instructions:

Luke 24:44-49

44 Now He said to^d them, "These are My 'words, which I speak to^d you, still being ^{tθ}with you, ^tfor all 'must be fulfilled that is °written° in the law of Moses and the
45 prophets and psalms concerning Me." Then He opens up
46 their 'mind to understand the scriptures, and said to them that "Thus it is °written°, and thus 'must the Christ be suffering and rise °from among the dead the third day,
47 and there is to be heralded °in His 'name repentance
°for the pardon of sins, °to all the nations, °beginning°
48 from Jerusalem. Now you' shall be witnesses of these
49 things. And 'lo! I am delegating the promise of My 'Father on you. Now you' be seated in the city of Jerusalem till °you should be putting° on power °from on high."

The 11 received two instructions from the risen, but not yet **Glorified** Messiah – Yeshua still looked like Yeshua. The 11 saw Him, touched Him, ate with Him; He opened their minds to understand the scriptures, He gave them 2 instructions, and then they watched Him ascend into the heavens.

Mark 16:19

19 The Lord, indeed, then, after speaking with them, was taken up into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.

So what did they do? They stayed in Jerusalem all right, but Peter plowed right in with the bright idea to replace Judas with someone else. We KNOW the Lord did not direct Him, because of the way He presents the whole idea, and the procedures they follow to choose Matthias. Casting lots is hardly being led by the Holy Spirit! It's no different from rolling dice or drawing straws.

The 11 apostles, who were once Yeshua's disciples, were called by the Man, taught by the Man, and any subsequent encounters with His after He ascended – at least as far as the scriptural accounts – were by messenger or vision. They met Yeshua the Messiah, the Man, before and after He was Resurrected.

Sha'ul of Tarsus came along – He'd never met the man, Yeshua; he only knew Him by name and reputation. Saul's only interest in anything to do with the man named Yeshua, was wiping out everything associated with Him and silencing everyone who followed Him.

Saul met the risen and glorified Lord! And look at the difference in His attitude and life compared to the other guys who only met the man, albeit the resurrected man: Sha'ul or Saul, who became Paul, was so shaken by the experience that he didn't eat or drink anything and was blind for three days afterward. After Ananias came over to heal his eyes and fill him with the Spirit, though, Paul was off and running. The Lord had to cool his jets for 14 years and season him into the apostle who came back full of the most astonishing revelations ever heard.

The 11 took 3½ years with a man and still didn't have what Paul got in one meeting with the Risen Lord.