

MARK 10:32b-34

BETRAYED!

^{32b} *Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him.* ³³ *“We are going up to Jerusalem,” he said, “and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles,* ³⁴ *who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise.”*

Jesus' prediction of his death becomes more precise and detailed each time he repeats it. Now the location is cited as Jerusalem. In this rendition the players are also portrayed. It will not only be the Jews who reject Jesus, but it will be the Jewish leadership; those professionals who know the law and perform the ceremonies and sacrifices, all of which point to the Messiah. In addition, the final solution of the problem of this so-called Messiah will be placed in the hands of the Gentiles. As the Jewish authorities represent the Jews, the Romans will represent all the Gentiles. Finally, even the followers of Jesus are implicated, for he will be betrayed to the authorities. Only one who has earned some level of trust by the victim can be in the position to betray him. Clearly Jesus is prophesying that someone in the group of disciples will deliver him to death through treachery. We know that each of the Twelve in their own way end up betraying Jesus. The Jews, the Gentiles and the disciples would add up to the participation of everyone in Jesus' rejection. There is only one “good guy” in this drama, and that is Jesus. That is yet another reason why our focus needs to be on Jesus alone. Especially in the light of the fact that three days later he did rise from the dead.

Dear Lord, like the Jewish leaders, as a member of your church I know the story. Like the Romans, I live in the world and am fully capable of assassinating your character. As one who professes to follow you, like the disciples I am willing to save myself at your expense. Open my eyes to this reality and deliver me from all wrong desires so that I might be a faithful witness to your truth. Amen.