

## MARK 9:10-13

## BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

<sup>10</sup> They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what “rising from the dead” meant. <sup>11</sup> And they asked him, “Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?” <sup>12</sup> Jesus replied, “To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected? <sup>13</sup> But I tell you, Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished, just as it is written about him.”

How does a rank and file member of a security unit know when an important person will visit, and what that person is going to do? Usually, the answer is that he is called out to drill or practice his responsibility for the visit. A scenario is presented and all the players rehearse their parts. Although the subject has not yet arrived, there is a surrogate or stand in who plays the role of the dignitary for the rehearsal. The appearance of that substitute is a sure sign that the dignitary is about to arrive and his actions are an indication of what you might expect the visitor to do.

According to Malachi (3:1; 4:5), God will send his messenger to prepare the way for his coming, and that messenger will be Elijah. An Elijah figure will be the advance team for the coming of the Lord, and as such will serve both to let us know that the Lord is coming and to prepare us for what he will do. Jesus clearly identifies John the Baptist as the Elijah figure during the same conversation as recorded in Matthew 17:13. The thread then becomes, as Elijah suffered at the hands of Jezebel, and John at the hands of the Herodians, the Messiah will suffer and be rejected by wicked men.

Jesus again takes our focus off the events of this world and the signs of the kingdom to come and places it firmly on the kingdom itself. It is the resurrection that is the power and presence of the kingdom of God here on earth and the hope of its eternal consummation. Elijah has returned. The Second Adam has been raised. The hope of our resurrection is assured. Let us live into the victory by living lives of joy that only comes from knowing the peace of God that transcends the present brokenness and chaos.

**Lord, in the midst of the pain, suffering, illness and oppression of this world, help me to live as an Easter person. Through your Holy Spirit encourage and equip me to express through my life the realized hope that is found only in you. Let my life reflect the knowledge that you have overcome evil and death and invited me to join in your victory. But most of all empower me to live my life as a witness to your love and mercy. Amen.**