

# Passion Predictions

Isaiah 35:1-10   1 Corinthians 13:1-13   Luke 18:31-43

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Like the prophets of old, Jesus proclaimed the Word of God and He worked mighty miracles. The people marveled at what Jesus said and did; they knew there was something special about Him, but they just didn't know exactly what it was. There were many opinions, lots of rumors, and all kinds of speculation.

Jesus taught the Word of God with authority, and He worked great miracles; but that is not where His glory is to be found. His glory would be seen at the cross where He suffers and dies for the sins of the world. It is there where He will be revealed as the **Savior of the world!** His Resurrection on the Third Day will prove that it is true, that He really is the Christ, the Son of God, Who gives eternal life through faith in His Name.

In the Gospels, Jesus teaches His disciples things before they occur. He teaches proleptically<sup>1</sup>, so that *after the events happen*, the disciples will remember that Jesus had already told them about it. Today we heard Jesus teach proleptically about His own suffering, death, and resurrection.

**"See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For He will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. And after flogging Him, they will kill Him, and on the Third Day He will rise."**   Luke 18:31-33

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<sup>1</sup> Proleptic means "beforehand"; Jesus teaches things before they occur. For instance, He teaches His resurrection from the dead in John 2 (see John 2:19-22, especially 2:22). Likewise, He proleptically teaches Baptism as "Born again" in John 3 and "Living Water" in John 4; and Holy Communion as "Bread of Life" in John 6. Likewise He proleptically taught Peter's denial, Judas' betrayal, and the disciples desertion. In the 3 "Passion Predictions" (Luke 9:22, 43-45; 18:31-34), Jesus teaches about His own suffering, death and resurrection . . . proleptically → before they occur!

Jesus does this **three times** in the Gospel of Luke; three times He tells the disciples that He will suffer and die in Jerusalem and rise from the dead on the Third Day. But they do not understand. In fact they will not fully understand until the Holy Spirit comes upon them on Pentecost Sunday.

**When** Jesus predicts His own death and resurrection, **and** it comes about exactly as He said it would, **IT SHOWS THAT** *He truly is the Son of God, the Omniscient Lord of heaven and earth, who knows all things!* When things happen *just as* He said they would, it **reinforces** that ***everything*** He said was true, and He has the power to keep every promise He makes. Jesus is God on earth who has done the work of salvation for us.

That means *you can trust Him* when He promises that your sins are forgiven. *You can trust Him* when He teaches you that God is your Father in Heaven who provides your daily bread and watches over your life. *You can trust Him* when He says that you will live forever in His Kingdom in a glorified and resurrected body. Jesus, the Son of God, who suffered and died, is faithful and true to His Word. *You can believe everything He says and trust every promise He makes.*

When Jesus predicts His own death and resurrection, and it comes about exactly as He said it would, it reminds us of His great love for us.

Jesus **willingly and deliberately** went into Jerusalem to suffer and die for the sins of the world. It was no accident; He was not just in the wrong place at the wrong time. This was *intentional and deliberate*, because this is exactly why He came into the world. His love for you is not only patient and kind, but it is sacrificial and giving. He gave Himself so that you can live with Him forever. God's love for you is

seen in His Son Jesus who suffered and died in Jerusalem. This is Who you believe in; this is Who you trust!

In faith, God's love in Christ now works through you as you are patient and kind with the people in your life. Envy, boastfulness, arrogance, rudeness, self-centeredness, and anger have no place in the life of a believer. You know Christ and you know His love: you are to put His love to work in your life and it shows itself as patient, kind, sacrificial, and giving to other people.

When Jesus predicts His own death and resurrection, and it comes about exactly as He said it would, it reminds us of *the centrality of the gospel* in the Christian faith. The gospel is the good news of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection that brings eternal salvation to all people. This gospel is *the most important thing* in the Christian faith. St. Paul calls it "first importance."

For what I received I passed on to you as of *first importance*: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

St. Paul calls Christ's death, burial, and resurrection "**FIRST IMPORTANCE.**" As Conservative Lutherans, we echo that, and we confess that the Gospel is the *first and chief doctrine* of the Christian faith. After His resurrection, Jesus will meet with His disciples and explain to them the significance of His suffering, death, and resurrection. The rest of the New Testament will expand on the significance of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection.

This gospel is what we preach and teach in our churches. This is the salvation event; this is why Christ came into the world; this is how

your sins are forgiven. Everything focuses on Jesus and His suffering, death, and resurrection. Because of it ...

- ✓ your sins are forgiven
- ✓ you have peace with God
- ✓ you have been set free from the power of the devil
- ✓ you can resist temptation
- ✓ you have been given eternal life
- ✓ you will rise from the dead on the last day just as Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday

The disciples did not understand what Jesus was teaching until after the fact; it wasn't until the Holy Spirit came upon them on Pentecost Sunday that they fully understood the significance of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection.

*The Holy Spirit has opened your eyes,* and has given you understanding, so that you know the significance of the gospel. The Holy Spirit created faith within you so that you know that Jesus is your Savior; and that His suffering death and resurrection was for you and for your salvation.

This week we transition out of Epiphany and into the season of Lent. Starting Wednesday, for 40 days we will keep Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection in front of us. Lent is a repentant season, as we reflect on the depth and evil of our sin; and remember the love and compassion of God for us -- a love that sent Jesus to suffer and die on a cross for us and our salvation.

Jesus taught His suffering, death, and resurrection to us ahead of time. It came to pass exactly like He said it would. He really is the Savior and your sins really are forgiven!

Amen.

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God the Father, your love for us is patient and kind, and seen in your son Jesus our savior. Send your Holy Spirit so that we may repent of our sins and trust in his suffering and death for us and our salvation. Teach us to love as you have loved us and empower us to take this gospel good news to the people of our lives so that they too may have their sins forgiven. We pray this in Jesus' most Holy Name, Amen!

# Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

<sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
“Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you.”

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup> then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> And a highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the Lord shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. 4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. 13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

## **Luke 18:31-34**

31 And taking the twelve, he said to them, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. 32 For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. 33 And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise.” 34 But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.