

## Elder Bobby Willis



### We Hear, or Do We?

#### *Mark 10:32-34*

How many times have you met a person for the first time and felt like you have known them for a long time. In addition, you think you know so much about them, almost to the point of believing you know all there is to know. We instantly judge their character, their past and their future based on first impressions, often only hearing what we want to hear.

Found in the book of Mark, chapter 8, we see some of the early impressions of the Apostles as Jesus began to instruct them on **“many things”** which would shortly take place. Mark 8:31, **“And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.”** Peter heard the words of Jesus, but took issue with what had been said to the point of rebuking Him (vs. 32), unable to grasp His meaning.

The next occasion of this occurring is found in Mark 9:31 as they passed through Galilee, **“For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day.”** Their real understanding of this man Christ Jesus would reveal they did not know what they thought they did. Verse 32 says, **“they understood not that saying, and were afraid to ask him.”** No rebuke this time by Peter or any of the others this time. Why? Because they were afraid to ask or say anything at all. Their lack of understanding is evident a short time later when Christ, as he came to Capernaum, asked them, **“What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way?”** Their minds had quickly drifted away from the seriousness of His words as they had allowed the flesh to intervene, hearing His words but not listening to His words. How much so? To the point they disputed the idea of who should be the greatest among them. They dared not tell

Him what they had been doing. How little did they know about their Lord, who knows all things, and who knew exactly what they had been doing. When we listen, we must listen with Spiritual ears, desiring for the Lord to instruct us in His ways; be it the gospel being preached, or while we read the Bible.

Once again, now for the third time, Jesus tells them what is about to take place in the clearest and most detailed description of His impending crucifixion and of His resurrection as told in Mark 10:32-34, **“And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him, Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles: And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.”**

You would think these three explanations would have been enough to get their attention of what Christ was about to endure, but notice how quickly the minds of James and John (the sons of Zebedee) wandered again with fleshly thoughts as they asked Him to allow them to sit on His left and His right hand. Their minds were so occupied with a Messiah who would be an earthly king, not a heavenly King.

The best way to get to know more about Jesus Christ our Saviour is to read the word of God on a regular basis, attend church every Sunday, listen to audio sermons, and have our minds centered on the blessings which only God has given. Want to know more about Him? Seek Him first! And then listen to what He says. **“Think About It!”**