

The Fork in the Road

(04/15/17)

Mark 10:32-34

- I. For over 3 years Jesus was thronged by the multitudes
 - A) **Mark 7:24**- Jesus could not be hid, and when He sought a small rest, the Syrophonecian woman came calling
 - B) **Luke 7:40-45**- Thronged by multitudes and 1 lady touches His garment
 - C) **Luke 19:1-5**- Zacchaeus had to climb a tree to see over the crowd
 - D) **Luke 5:1-3**- Jesus had to get in a boat to create some space to preach
 - E) **Matt 14:13-14**- Jesus retires to desert and multitudes follow after Him
 - 1) And yet here He is on the Jericho road strode out in front of the 12 who halted
- II. **John 11:1-10**- The backdrop for this final trip begins in Bethabara beyond Jordan (**John 1:28**) about a 60 mile trip to Jerusalem
 - A) **John 11:46-52**- The raising of Lazarus is the catalyst that begins the events leading to Calvary
 - 1) **John 12:9-11**- They sought also to kill Lazarus
 - B) **John 11:53-55**- Jesus goes into a city called Ephraim (12 miles from Jerusalem) and awaits His “time”
 - 1) **Matt 26:18**- “My time is at hand”
 - i. Jesus had several times prevented His death before the time saying “My time is not yet”
 - a) **Luke 4:28-30**- Passed through the midst of the men of Nazareth
 - b) **John 7:6-8**- “my time is not yet”
 - c) **Matt 8:28-29**- Even the devils knew the time (from **Daniel 9**)
- III. It is from Ephraim that the events of **Mark 10:32** originate
 - A) **Luke 9:51-53**- Jesus sets His face to go to Jerusalem (**Isa 50:7**)
 - 1) **Heb 10:5-9**- “A body hast Thou prepared Me, I come to do Thy will”
 - 2) **John 4:30-34**- “My meat is to do the will of My Father”
 - 3) **John 10:14-18**- “I lay down My life, no man takes it from Me”
 - i. This should be the attitude of every believer
- IV. The fork in our spiritual road
 - A) **Matt 6:24**- Jesus Christ demands separation if we are to serve Him
 - 1) **1 Kings 18:21**- “How long halt ye between two opinions?”
 - 2) **Josh 24:14-15**- “Choose ye this day Whom ye will serve”
 - 3) **Rom 12:1**- Present your bodies a living sacrifice
 - i. Have you set your face to walk that way?

- a) **Luke 9:51-53**- The Samaritans would not receive Him because He was bound for Jerusalem (thus He contradicted their doctrine)
 - 1. The world loves the Christ of Bethlehem, but they hate the Christ of Calvary
 - b) **Luke 9:54-56**- James and John wanted to destroy them, yet Jesus rebuked them, and said His was to “save”
 - 1. This should be our attitude also, as we have no right to judge another man’s service (**Rom 14:4**)
 - c) **Luke 9:57-58**- No foxholes along this road! You will be exposed to the hatred of the world, and there are no physical riches or social preeminence to be had
 - 1. **John 15:19-20**- The world hates those that are Christ’s and the only way to avoid this hatred is to attempt to hide your identity
 - d) **Luke 9:59-60**- What way seems practical to the world is of no concern to the man on this road, once began, there can be no delay
 - 1. **John 14:6**- “I am the way”
 - e) **Luke 9:61-62**- You cannot bring the worldly along on this road
 - 1. **Luke 14:26-27**- We must abandon our natural priority on family and friends, and let Christ be Lord of all
- B) A great preacher said “Once you start on this turnpike, there is no exit till Calvary”
- 1) **Eph 4:1-2**- Walk worthy of the vocation
 - i. **Rom 12:1**- The Lord Jesus Christ will not force this service on you, but if you accept the call to serve He will deal with you as such
 - a) Babes are neither fit to serve nor are they corrected by chastisement
 - 1. **1 Cor 3:1-2**- Spiritual babes can’t be dealt with as “spiritual”
 - 2. **Heb 5:11-14**- Hebrew babes decades after believing
 - ii. **Phil 2:12-17**- Work out your own salvation
 - iii. **1 Pet 1:14-17**- “Be ye holy, for I am holy”
 - iv. **Phil 3:14-16**- Forgetting what’s behind and pressing toward the mark
- C) **1 Pet 3:15**- Be ready to give every man an answer of the hope that is in you
- 1) A missionary to southeast Asia told the story of a wealthy Chinese family who was involved in the import/export business in Thailand. The couples son was a notorious playboy who enjoyed a lavish lifestyle with his friends; also children of wealthy businessmen. Upon hearing the gospel and God saving him, the next day he sent out letters to all his cronies saying, “I would like to inform you that the Lord Jesus Christ has saved me and made me His Own. I will no longer be seen in the haunts which I have been accustomed to frequent”

- 2) An old preacher told the story of a wealthy young man of prominence in Philadelphia, who was saved during WW1. He told the preacher when he got home that he was worried he would fall back into his old ways. The preacher asked him if he would simply tell the 1st 10 friends or acquaintances he met that he had gotten saved and now had the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior. He agreed. He saw the preacher a few months later and said it was simply impossible for him to return to his old ways as they would no longer have him.

D) **Luke 9:23**- “Take up your cross daily and follow Me”

- 1) **Deut 30:19**- After presenting God’s word to the people, Moses declared he “had set before them life and death, choose life”
 - i. **1 John 2:15-17**- All this is of this world passes away
 - ii. **2 Cor 5:10-11**- We must all appear at the judgment seat of Christ