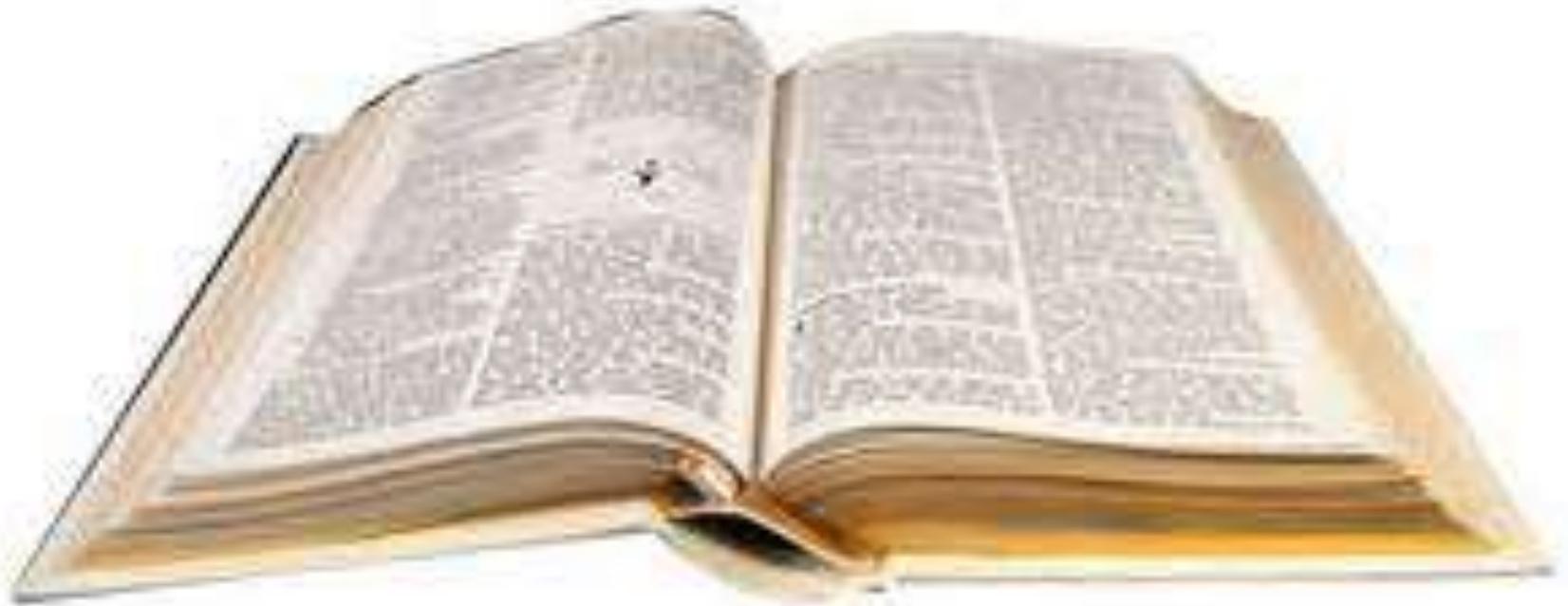


Follow the Master

Luke 9:18 – 27



Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him,



Caesarea Philippi

- 1, The time and place
- 2, Jesus' prayer life.
- 3, What's the difference?
- 4, Something for us to follow?





He asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life."

Why just the crowd's opinions?

They see something/someone supernatural.

What do people say today?



"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "God's Messiah."

**What you say in answer
reveals your heart**

You've seen something others haven't (God's revelation)

The Prophet Deuteronomy 18

Priest Psalm 110 The Order of Melchizedek

King Psalm 2 (predominant view at that time)

Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone.



The people have the wrong idea about the Messiah

The disciples are not yet ready

**(They need to see Jesus in light of the
cross and resurrection)**

And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed.



Son of Man = The Messiah : must suffer !

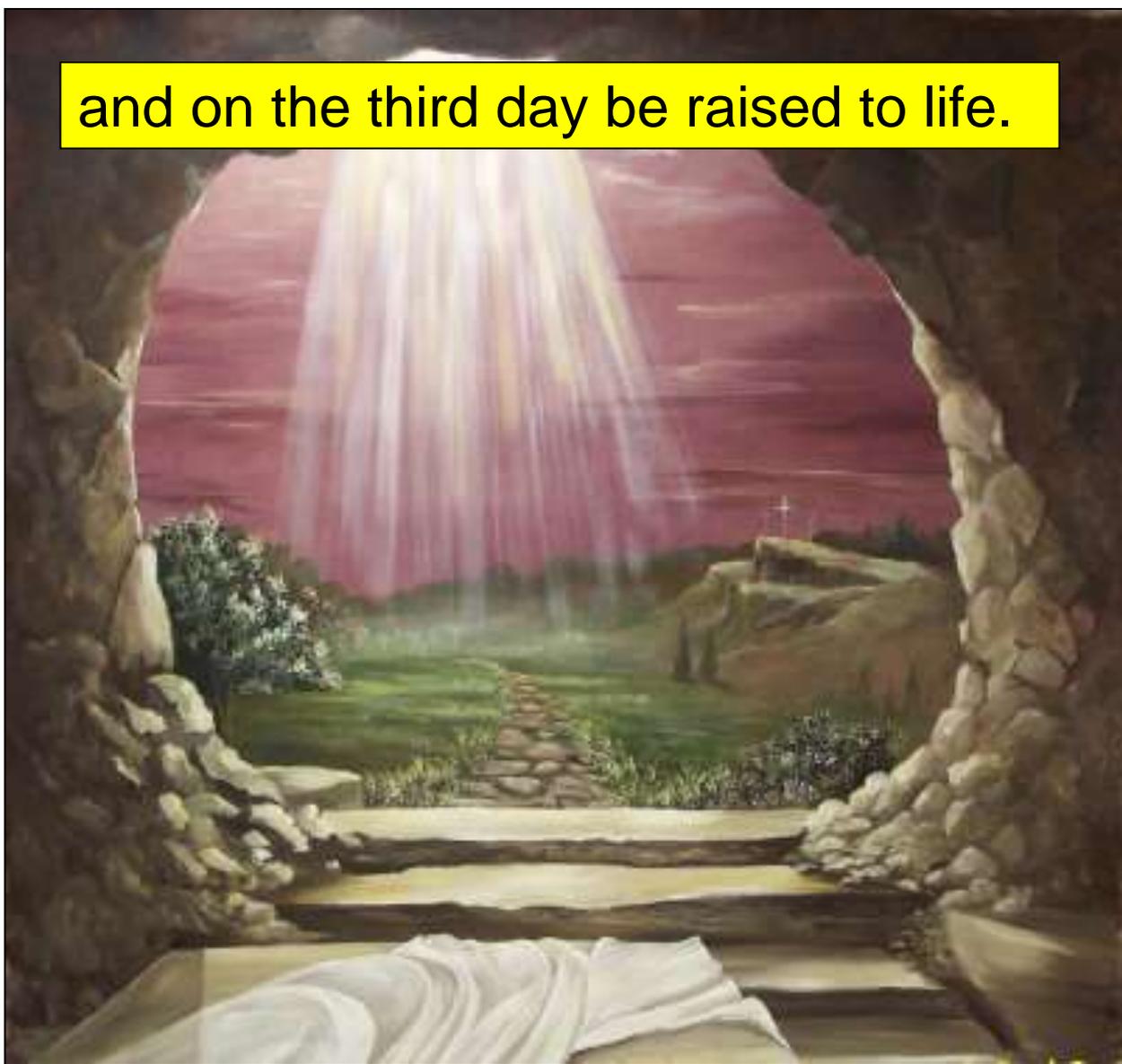
Rejected - official opinion!

And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed.



MUST – means there was no other way!
In this way he becomes priest and sacrifice (Isaiah 53)
The Saviour by his blood (death)
Their rejection (they are guilty) led to his crucifixion
His crucifixion is the means of atonement
(fulfilled Psalm 22)

and on the third day be raised to life.



The final “MUST”

- inevitable consequence of his work Glory!!!!!!

Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”



A stark choice – way of life/death

But an alarming paradox ! --The way to life is to die to self

You MUST deny self - who rules your heart?

Then he said to them all:
"Whoever wants to be my
disciple must deny themselves
and take up their cross daily
and follow me.



Take up your cross (common scene in Galilee)
not your “cross” you have to bear –
eg. problem people etc.

But an instrument of execution - death-row discipleship
Cross = suffering because you are a follower of Jesus,
rejection, persecution, trials etc.

Daily – not a one-off choice they keep coming!

Is this your Christianity ?
not for the undecided / pleasure seekers

The reason why.

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.

**Self interest leads to ultimate loss
and self destruction**

**A person wrapped up in themselves
... makes a very small parcel**

**The Lord's promise is based on the
purpose for which we were created.**



***To know and serve God through Jesus means real
living, purpose and final security.***

What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?

**Think it through!
Do the maths!**

**You accumulate every thing
the world has to give and yet
lose the one thing that lasts
beyond it.**



**Assumption –
There's more to life than this three score and ten
(plus or minus)**

And Jesus knows what he's talking about.

Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

**Your response to him now has far-reaching consequences
Ashamed ? Of Jesus AND what he has said**



Will he be ashamed ?

Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

**The Son of Man
the Messiah returning
as King of Kings**



- 1, There will be a day of reckoning !**
- 2, He is coming back !**

**In His glory – exalted Saviour and Lord
in the Father's glory – Divine majesty
with the holy angels – his supernatural army
(no escape)**

What was coming ?



Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."

Transfiguration (in a few day's time)

– some saw his glory and signs of the Kingship

Death & Resurrection and Ascension

-- all the disciples saw this- but they saw the glory!

A few remained until AD 70 – to see the frightening consequences of the nation's official rejection of Jesus.

**The stark truth is that
there are no alternative routes
that will lead to real eternal life.**

It's Jesus' way or not at all !



Just as there was no alternative route for him to fulfil the Father's plan that led to the Father's Glory and honour, so too, we must take the road that Jesus has said will lead to Him getting the glory for what He will do for you and me.

**All of this underlines the absolute necessity
of having the power of the Holy Spirit in our hearts**