

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus reveals His *Passion, death, and resurrection* *three* times in a progressively more detailed and solemn manner. Each prediction is followed by a reaction from the disciples and a teaching from Jesus about the meaning of His mission and what it means to follow Him. These revelations occur in the context of Jesus preparing His disciples for the reality of His suffering and the mystery of His resurrection.

1. First Prediction (Mark 8:31-33)

"He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again." (Mark 8:31)

- **Context:** After Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus immediately begins to explain that the Messiah must suffer, be killed, and rise again. This is the first time Jesus speaks explicitly of His Passion.
- **Disciples' Response:** Peter rebukes Jesus, unable to accept the idea of a suffering Messiah.
- **Jesus' Teaching:** Jesus sharply rebukes Peter, saying, "Get behind me, Satan!" (Mark 8:33), emphasizing that Peter's view is a human one, not God's plan. Jesus then teaches that discipleship involves carrying one's own cross (Mark 8:34).

2. Second Prediction (Mark 9:30-32)

"He said to them, 'The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.' But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it." (Mark 9:31-32)

- **Context:** Jesus gives this second prediction while traveling through Galilee, teaching His disciples in private.
- **Disciples' Response:** The disciples do not understand the prediction but are afraid to ask Jesus about it.
- **Jesus' Teaching:** Immediately afterward, the disciples argue about who is the greatest among them. Jesus responds by teaching them that true greatness comes from being a servant and welcoming the least, especially children (Mark 9:33-37).

3. Third Prediction (Mark 10:32-34)

"Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. 'We are going up to Jerusalem,' he said, 'and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise.'" (Mark 10:33-34)

- **Context:** On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus again explains in more detail what will happen to Him: His suffering, betrayal, mocking, flogging, and eventual death, followed by His resurrection.

- **Disciples' Response:** Immediately after this, James and John ask to sit at Jesus' right and left in glory, showing once again their misunderstanding of the nature of Jesus' mission.
- **Jesus' Teaching:** Jesus teaches them that greatness in the Kingdom of God is not about power or status but about service and sacrifice, even to the point of suffering. He says, "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

Progressive Revelation:

- **First Prediction:** Jesus introduces the concept of the Passion and rebukes Peter's misunderstanding.
- **Second Prediction:** Jesus adds more details about His betrayal and death, but the disciples remain confused.
- **Third Prediction:** Jesus gives a detailed description of His Passion, emphasizing the nature of His suffering, but the disciples still misunderstand the nature of His mission, focusing on worldly greatness.

Theological Significance:

Jesus' progressive revelation of His Passion, death, and resurrection shows His attempt to prepare the disciples for the scandal of the Cross and the mystery of the Resurrection. Each time, the disciples struggle to understand, revealing their human expectations of a triumphant Messiah. Jesus uses these moments to teach them the true nature of His messianic mission — one of suffering, service, and ultimate victory through the Resurrection — and to challenge their understanding of discipleship, which involves following Him on the path of the Cross.

In summary, the three predictions in the Gospel of Mark progressively reveal the mystery of the Paschal Mystery, and each one is followed by important teachings on *discipleship, humility, and service*.