

Luke 18:31-34

³¹Then Jesus took the Twelve aside and said to them, “Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything the prophets have written about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. ³²He will be delivered over to the Gentiles, and will be mocked, and insulted, and spat upon. ³³They will flog Him, and kill Him; and on the third day He will rise again.”

³⁴But the disciples did not understand any of these things. The meaning was hidden from them, and they did not comprehend what He was saying.

Berean Study Bible

1

Theology for the real world. Luke 18:31-34

Attention to what Jesus says. 18:31

Look to God’s short-term plan. 31a “Look, we are going up to Jerusalem”

Look to God’s long-term plan. 31b “everything... about to be fulfilled”

Action of what Jesus does. 18:32-33

Sometimes God’s plan is unpleasant. 32-33 “kill Him”, 1 Peter 4:19

Ultimately God’s plan is beneficial. 33b “rise again”

Reaction to what Jesus says. 18:34

Sometimes I don’t see God’s purpose. 34 “not understand... not comprehend”

Eventually I will see God’s purpose. 34 “meaning was hidden from them”

2

I don’t understand why things are so bad. Luke 18:31-34

Life is a mixture of good and bad. 18:31

God wants to take me to a good place. 31a “going up to Jerusalem”

God wants me to know what will happen. 31b “everything... about to be fulfilled”

Bad things also happen to God. 18:32-33

Jesus knows how bad things can be. 32-33 “kill Him”

Jesus knows how good things will be. 33b “rise again”

I still don’t understand. 18:34

I have my personal limitations. 34 “not understand... not comprehend”

I live within imposed limitations. 34 “meaning was hidden from them”

How much do you know? Luke 18:31-34

I know I can trust God's Plan. 18:31

I know where I am. 31a "Jesus took the Twelve aside"

I know where I am going. 31a "we are going up to Jerusalem"

I know there is a plan. 31b "everything... about to be fulfilled"

I know I can follow Jesus. 18:32-33

I know Jesus was tortured. 32-33a "mocked and... flog Him"

I know Jesus was killed. 33a "and kill Him"

I know Jesus rose again. 33b "rise again"

I know I can walk by faith. 18:34

I know I don't understand. 34a "did not understand"

I know I can't understand. 34b "meaning was hidden from them"

I know I can trust Jesus. 34c "not comprehend what He was saying"

When my friend needs a friend. Luke 18:31-34

Friendship includes connection. 18:31a

Friends share their time. 31. "took them aside"

Friends shut their mouths. 31 "Jesus... said" (disciples silent)

Friendship includes revelation. 18:31b-33

Friends endure hard times. 32-33a "mocked..."

Friends enjoy good times. 33b "rise again"

Friendship includes re-direction

Friends see things differently. 34a "not understand any of these things"

Friends hear things differently. 34b "not comprehend what He was saying"

When the going gets tough. Luke 18:31-34

Face it, and embrace it. 18:31-33

Failing to grasp it. 18:34

Being a good person in no-so-good times. Luke 18:31-34

Good people need good friends. 18:31

We all need friends we can take into our confidence. 31 “took the Twelve aside”

We all need friends we can take on our journey. 31 “we are going up to Jerusalem”

Good people have bad experiences. 18:32-33

Bad events are always bad. 32-33a “They will flog Him and kill Him”

Bad events are followed by good. 33b “He will rise again”

Good people have unanswered questions. 18:34

Good people don’t know what God knows. 34 “not understand... not comprehend”

Good people can’t know what God knows. 34 “meaning was hidden from them”

Are we there yet? Luke 18:31-34

God gives me direction. 31 “we are going up to Jerusalem”

With detours. Luke 17:11, previous geographical location

With distractions. Luke 18:15-17, Luke 18:18-30, life is detours and distractions

God gives me foundation. 31 “everything the prophets have written”

By God’s Word. Psalm 19:7-11, John 14:25-26

By God’s Spirit. 1 Timothy 4:1, Revelation 22:17

God gives me tribulation. 32-33 “mocked... insulted...”

To break down. John 16:33, Acts 14:22

To build up. Romans 8:37, Romans 14:19

God gives me resurrection. 33b “rise again”

Eternal life eventually. John 3:16

Abundant life immediately. John 10:10

God gives me no reason. 34 “meaning was hidden”

For faith in God.

For character in me. Matthew 5:16, Galatians 6:9

Other possible titles

When 'Plan A' makes no sense
What on earth is God doing?
Short-term pain, long-term gain
I just don't get it
"I know nothing" (Sgt Shultz, *Hogan's Heroes*)
"I have a cunning plan" (Baldrick, *Blackadder*)
When God tells you
Comprehending Calvary
Clueless Christians
It's all going according to plan
Facing the (un)known
Be prepared
No secrets

Quotes and illustrations

Seek, and you will find Christ with you in your chaos and confusion. IBD

Even when Jesus tells me, we disciples still don't understand. But God is bigger than us. IBD

Commentary

Inversion parallelism. Luke 18:31-34

- A1 Who – Jesus and the disciples, v31a
- A2 What – going up to Jerusalem, v31b
- Xx Why – everything prophesied will be fulfilled, v31b
- B2 What – mocked and killed, v32-33
- B1 Who – Jesus' disciples, v34

the disciples did not **understand** any of these things v34a

The verb συνίημι [Strong's 4920] is a compound word consisting of 'syn' (the origin of our English word 'synergy') meaning 'together with'; plus 'hiemi' meaning 'put, send'. Hence, συνίημι means 'put the pieces together, connect the dots'.

they did not **comprehend** what He was saying. v34b

The verb γινώσκω [Strong's 1097] means 'knowing through personal experience, first-hand knowing, practical knowledge, grasping the facts'. In this instance, the word is given a prefix, making it ἐγίνωσκω. This subtly changes the word to suggest the addition of greater thought or sensitivity in utilising this knowledge. This takes the translation of ἐγίνωσκω from 'knowing' to 'comprehending'.

Matthew 20:17-19	Mark 10:32-34	Luke 18:31-34
¹⁷As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, He took the twelve disciples aside and said, ¹⁸"Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes. They will condemn Him to death ¹⁹and will deliver Him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. And on the third day He will be raised to life."	³²As they were going up the road to Jerusalem, Jesus was walking ahead of them. The disciples were amazed, but those who followed were afraid. Again Jesus took the Twelve aside and began to tell them what was going to happen to Him: ³³"Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes. They will condemn Him to death and will deliver Him over to the Gentiles, ³⁴who will mock Him and spit on Him and flog Him and kill Him. And after three days He will rise again."	³¹Then Jesus took the Twelve aside and said to them, "Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything the prophets have written about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. ³²He will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. ³³They will flog Him and kill Him, and on the third day He will rise again." ³⁴But the disciples did not understand any of these things. The meaning was hidden from them, and they did not comprehend what He was saying.

Music and songs

Songs about the reliability of God's Word, v31
 Ancient words, Ot 94
 Every promise of Your Word (Getty-Townend)

Red letters (D C Talk)
So many books (Michael Card), Ot 81
The Book (Michael Card)
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, Ot 63

Songs about Jesus' Passion / death, v32-33

At the cross [My worth is not in what I own] (Getty)
He paid a debt He did not owe,
I'm not ashamed... At the cross, H 732
It's about the cross, Ot 54
Jesus keep me near the cross, H 665
O to see the dawn (Power of the cross), Ot 62
Take me to the cross, 671
The old rugged cross, H 678

Songs about Jesus' resurrection, v33

I serve a risen Saviour... He lives within my heart. H
Low in the grave He lay... Up from the grave He arose, H
My Redeemer lives, MiS 13

Songs about lack of understanding, v34

I am not skilled to understand, I only know... H
I cannot tell why He whom angels worship, H
I know not why... I know whom, H 651
Teach me Thy way, O Lord, H

Songs about trusting God.

I will trust in You (Dan Daniels), Ot 112
I'll trust in Him, JOS 7
Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, H 701
When we walk with the Lord... trust and obey, H 711
You are my hiding place... I will trust in You, 673
You can trust Him, Ot 92

Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion

1. List some advantages of knowing what is about to happen. Are there advantages in not knowing what is about to happen?
2. Suggest some reasons why Jesus would give so much detail of what was about to happen – both negative things, and positive.

3. When our “to do” list gets messed up, what are some physically, emotionally, and spiritually healthy ways to deal with it?
 4. Read Romans 8:18. Where is the suffering? Where is the glory? How do I measure the “worth”?
 5. Read 1 Corinthians 13:12. Suggestion some reasons why we have to wait for this understanding.
 6. Read Luke 9:45, and Luke 24:25. What actions could we take to overcome the problems in these two verses?
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This week's memory verse:

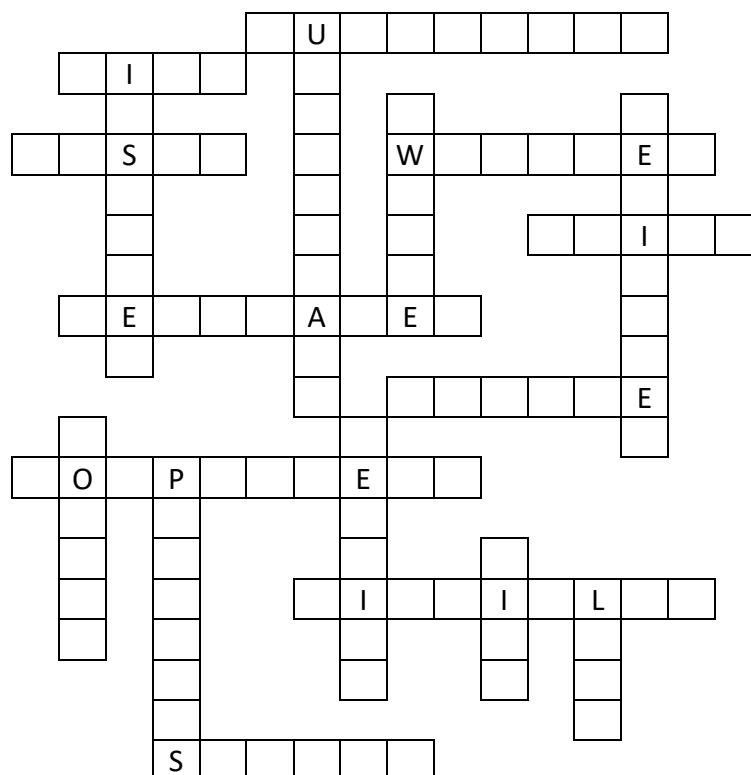
Everything the prophets have written about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. Luke 18:31

Crossword fill-in

From this week's Bible reading, relocate the words in **bold** font into the grid below.

³¹Then **Jesus** took the **Twelve** aside and said to them, "**Look**, we are going up to **Jerusalem**, and everything the **prophets** have **written** about the Son of Man will be **fulfilled**. ³²He will be **delivered** over to the Gentiles and will be **mocked** and **insulted** and spit upon. ³³They **will** flog Him and kill Him, and on the **third** day He will **rise** again."

³⁴But the **disciples** did not **understand** any of these things. The **meaning** was hidden from them, and they did not **comprehend** what He was **saying**. Luke 18:31-34



This week's key question

The disciples knew what was going to happen to Jesus, because He told them.

List 5 helpful ways by which you learn about Jesus.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Bonus question: Why is it important to learn about Jesus?