

## Mark 8:31-32a Sample Interpretation

3.19

Overview:

- This doc presents my sample interpretation work on Mark 8:31-32a. In doing so it models the process for doing IBS Interpretation work.
- This document presumes you have watch the video portraying what I see as the Primary Structures holding together the argument of Mark 8:22-10:52.
- My comments on the Interpretation process appear *in italics within this study*.
- Quotations are from the **RSV** unless otherwise noted. The **KJ(M)V** is the King James (Miller) Version ☺

Getting Started: (from my earlier video on Primary Structure in Mark 8:22-10:52)

- In order to begin studying the large central section of this Unit (8:27-10:45), I would begin by examining the three passion predictions (8:31-32a; 9:30-31; 10:32-34) that provide Mark's answer to the question, "What does it mean to say, 'I am the Christ?'"
- Each of these passion predictions are patterned in a manner in which a) Jesus predicts what will happen to him in Jerusalem, b) the disciples misunderstand that prediction, and c) Jesus corrects their misunderstanding, giving them sight/insight into what it means to call him the "Christ."
- My Interpretation work on 8:27-10:45 would therefore begin with the first Passion Prediction, the disciples' misunderstanding, and Jesus' correction of it in Mark 8. The study that follows below presents the first step in that process in Mark 8, identifying and defining the key issues in the first passion prediction found in Mark 8:31-32a.
- As always, I will complete my own independent work on the assigned passage without the use of secondary sources. Once I have finished my own independent work I can consult secondary sources. I will list any information gleaned from those sources at the end of my study (rather than integrating them within it).

Here are my two first questions posed to Jesus first Passion prediction in 8:31-32a. You will answer these same questions with regard to the disciples' misunderstanding and Jesus' correction of that misunderstanding in 8:32b-38.

1. **What are the key elements of Jesus' first passion prediction in 8:31-32a? (ID question)**
2. **What does each of these elements mean? (Definition question)**

**1. What are the key elements of Jesus' first passion prediction in 8:31-32a?**

- *Note that I reprint the question within my study so that a reader can follow along with what I am doing.*
- *My answer to the ID question will be fairly brief (even if I have a much longer passage to study). I am merely saying, "These are the key points in the passage I am interpreting." These become what I call the, "Anchor Points" around which I will gather evidence in order to answer the definition question.*

I see three key elements in Mark's description of Jesus' first passion prediction.

- *Note that I don't simply repeat the text. I use my own descriptive terms to characterize what I see in the text.*
- A. Introduction 31
  - B. Content of prediction #1 31
  - C. Nature of prediction #1 32a

**2. What does each of these elements mean?**

A. Introduction Observations all 31a

1. Jesus takes the initiative to teach, marking his own choice to do so
2. This appears to be the first of many such teachings since Mark notes that J *began* to teach
3. Based on 8:27-30, the recipients of the teaching are the disciples.

B. Content of prediction #1 Observations all 31

1. On the whole, the contents of the prediction are stated in highly general fashion, making detailed/definitive interpretation difficult at this point
  - a. This may then be Mark's own summary of J's teaching to the disciples that began at this point.
2. This content is clearly marked by the introductory "that" (in Greek ὅτι) *If you don't know Greek, don't include it and don't worry about it.*
3. Recipient of these activities = Son of Man
  - a. = Jesus own title for himself
  - b. its meaning/significance is not clear from context
4. Necessity of these activities
  - a. in English "must" (in Greek, δεῖ followed by infinitives)

- b. these activities are not optional
- c. the reason these activities are necessary is not spelled out
- d. **but Jesus himself states their necessity; he is aware and states no objections**

5. Named activities

a. **Suffer**

- i. unspecified numerous sufferings
- ii. could this be a general statement with what follows spelling out particular ‘many’ sufferings?

b. **Rejection**

- i. Subjects of rejections = Jewish leadership
- ii. Three named groups doing the deed =
  - 1. Elders presumably older, recognized leaders
  - 2. Chief priests official in the Temple in Jerusalem
  - 3. Scribes trained interpreters of biblical texts

c. **Death**

- i. passive, death will be administered to SoM by unnamed others
- ii. possibly, the passive nature of this action implies the elders/priests/scribes will do this (based on close context) though the text does not specify them for this action.

d. **Rise from among the dead**

- i. Temporal specifics three days after being put to death
- ii. Implies from among the dead or the realm of the death
- iii. Also implies the reality of the death

6. General overall effect =

- a. creates questions about how and when this will happen;
- b. no time frame is given for when these events will begin
- c. recalls plot to kill Jesus named in 3:6, a plot that has not been mentioned since that point.
- d. The succinct manner in which these activities are named focuses our attention on them. Mark provides little elaboration. He basically names these startling event happening to Jesus at some point.

C. Nature of prediction #1 32a

1. Jesus doesn't talk about these activities indirectly with the disciples
2. He speaks in a straightforward manner

**SUMMARY:** Mark provides a succinct summary of J's teaching to the disciples about what must happen to him in the future. He will suffer, be rejected by Jewish leadership, be put to death, and rise from the dead.