

“Leaving that region, they traveled through Galilee. Jesus didn’t want anyone to know he was there, for he wanted to spend more time with his disciples and teach them. He said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies. He will be killed, but three days later he will rise from the dead.” They didn’t understand what he was saying, however, and they were afraid to ask him what he meant.” Mark 9:30-32 NLT

## lectio // Mark 9:30-50

First off, I just love that Jesus wants to spend more time out of the public eye with his disciples. Then we have this little issue of fear and not being able to ask for clarity. In some business circles there is a principle of “fighting for clarity.” Not fist-fighting or yelling at each other, but a certain amount of safety and patience in the room where everyone can ask questions until they fully understand what’s going on. This group timidity isn’t always the leader’s fault, it often lies within the person(s) perception of themselves and how they are seen by each other. People want to be known for being quick and smart, so they often act like they get things right away. I’ve seen this dozens of times. A concept is presented and then there’s a pause for questions. Most have a questions but do not want to appear negative, or slow to understand. Then one brave soul asks a simple question to help them. Several people had the exact same question but did not ask it. The worse thing in a meeting is to have everyone know their head in agreement, but not really understand what happened. Even AFTER asking if there are questions! Mark is specific here, the disciples DID NOT understand what Jesus meant. I wouldn’t have either. And, because of their own fears, no one fought for clarity.

## oratio

Dad,  
I am learning and want to get better at asking questions in general, I hear it is a helpful and mature way of listening and being thoughtful. I also want to get better at asking you, “Father, what are you up to?, What are you doing?” I want to understand, but also I want to be a part of your plan. I don’t want to be thinking, praying or actively opposed to your work! I feel for the disciples who were hit with a completely opposite thought of what the Messiah was supposed to be and do. And, they must have felt completely at a loss to even talk about it among themselves. This is a perfect example of how turned around we get as humans. Your ways are NOT our ways. There have been a few times when I heard someone speak or pray in such a way, that I knew they had heard from you. They didn’t make a big deal about it, but there was a moment, a sense in the room that everyone nodded in agreement. And how important it would be to affirm that sense of unity and agree that WE had heard from you. I need, we need more of that these days. I don’t want to hear a hundred voices and opinions, I just want to hear ONE voice - and that is YOURS.

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root