

The image features a dark blue background with a yellow border. At each of the four corners, there are decorative elements consisting of a vertical line on the left and a horizontal line on the top or bottom, with several diagonal lines radiating from the corner. The text is centered within this frame.

The Life of Jesus (43)

Peter Rebuking
Jesus

Matthew 16:21-24

#1 Jesus Reveals His Suffering and Death

After hearing Peter's answer, Jesus began to reveal his true purpose in coming to the world.

“From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.” (Mt 16:21)

Jesus told his disciples ahead of time that he would suffer and be killed. That's Jesus' central ministry. Jesus did many things on earth, healing and teaching people and making disciples, but the most important ministry was to bear all peoples' sins and die on the cross as a sin offering. No one lives to die, but Jesus did.

“He suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone” (Heb 2:9)

However, death itself wasn't the ultimate goal. Jesus only 'tasted' death, which means that He overcame death and was raised to life again.

#2 Jesus Reveals His Suffering and Death

Why did Jesus reveal all these things to his disciples?

First of all, by foretelling what would happen to Him, Jesus showed that **it would not be a sudden, unexpected event**, but rather an elaborately planned purpose from ancient times.

The first and oldest prophecy about Jesus is found in Genesis. Right after Adam and Eve sinned by eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, God said to the serpent, Satan,

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; **he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.**” (Gn 3:15)

It is often called the **protoevangelium**, which means the first gospel.



As prophesied, Satan struck Jesus by making people crucify him, but only struck His heel because Jesus overcame death. But Jesus crushed Satan’s head by breaking the most powerful weapons he had—death and condemnation of sin.

#3 Jesus Reveals His Suffering and Death

There's one more reason Jesus revealed His death and resurrection to his disciples. Jesus did so to correct their wrong opinions about His role as the Messiah and the kingdom He would bring with his death and resurrection.

Even though Peter correctly professed who Jesus was—the Messiah and the Son of the living God—it's very likely that he didn't really know the meaning of what he said.

Unfortunately, the Israelites misunderstood what the Messiah would do. They understood this to mean that he would deliver them politically, not spiritually, from Roman oppression. They overlooked the Messiah's spiritual role as a deliverer from sin and Satan.

As a result, they failed to see Jesus as the promised Messiah since He didn't fit their ideas of what the Messiah would do.

The disciples were no different. Even though they were closer to him than others and professed that Jesus was the Messiah, they still didn't see the spiritual blessings He would bring with His suffering and death.

#4 Peter Rebukes Jesus

So, right after Jesus revealed His suffering, death, and resurrection to his disciples for the first time, Matthew 16:22 says,

“Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

“Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!””

(Mt 16:22)



Peter was so surprised and upset by Jesus’ words that he took Jesus aside and rebuked him. It shows that Peter’s understanding of the Messiah was wrong. Even though he was able to profess that Jesus was the Messiah, his eyes were still blinded by the worldly point of view of him.

Here, we find a very important lesson about our faith. For us to profess that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God itself doesn’t guarantee that we have true faith in Him. What’s way more important is to see Jesus as He really is.

#5 The Concerns of God vs Human Concerns

Jesus said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns” (Mt 16:23)



Jesus was really upset. He strongly rebuked Peter. But His anger wasn't only toward Peter, but Satan, who was working through him. Jesus saw Peter being used, deceived, and swayed by Satan to block Jesus' ministry.

Peter didn't really care about God's concerns. So he tried to prevent Jesus from going to Jerusalem to suffer.

It's interesting to see how someone who professes that “Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God” can be a stumbling block to Jesus at the same time. But sadly, this is still happening.

This happens when our faith in Jesus is not really lived out in our lives, when we have misconceptions about Jesus, or when we prioritize our will over God's will.

#6 The Concerns of God vs Human Concerns

Before being captured by soldiers, Jesus prayed,

“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done” (Lk 22:42)



This is one of the greatest prayers in the Bible and that we should learn to pray this way. **We should learn to put God’s will first in every area of our lives.** Unless we do so, we can never be Jesus’ true disciples.

To deny ourselves and follow Jesus is to fully surrender to him. It’s to put His way and His will over our ways. That’s the life we’re called to live as Christians.

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” (Mt 16:24)

Memory Verses

“From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things... and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.” (Mt 16:21) (2)

“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done” (Lk 22:42)

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” (Mt 16:24)

Questions

1) Why did Peter rebuke Jesus after Jesus revealed that he would go through suffering and death? What are the common misunderstandings or wrong ideas of Jesus Christians have nowadays?

2) Do you think you know Jesus as He is? Are you sure that the Jesus you believe in is the same Jesus revealed in the Bible? What do you think you need in order to have a better understanding of who Jesus is?