

THE REJECTED KING

Rejected By His Own

Matthew 16:21-23

INTRODUCTION: Have you ever told God He was wrong?

Before you answer that question, think about some of the ways that thought might be expressed.

I know the Bible says that a believer should not marry an unbeliever, but God wants me to be happy.

With all the billions of people in the world with so many different religions, there can't just be one way to heaven.

I know the Scriptures say we are supposed to take time weekly for worship, but Sunday is my only day with the family.

I know what the Bible says about the tithe and Jesus' promises about God giving back to us; but right now, I just cannot afford to give.

But when we say

I know the Bible says that a believer should not marry an unbeliever, but God wants me to be happy.

We are saying,

God is wrong about marriage.

And when we say

With all the billions of people in the world with so many different religions, there can't just be one way to heaven.

We are saying,

God is wrong about the way to heaven.

And when we say

I know the Scriptures say we are supposed to take time weekly for worship, but Sunday is my only day with the family.

We are saying,

God is wrong about what is best for me or my family.

And when we say

I know what the Bible says about the tithe and Jesus' promises about God giving back to us; but right now, I just cannot afford to give.

We are saying,

God is wrong about financial management.

Today is a day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ of Nazareth from the dead, proving that He is the Living Lord of Glory and the King of Heaven. We are going to a text in Matthew that is about everything that Easter is about.

- About Jesus' death upon the cross
- About His miraculous resurrection from the dead
- About the message that flows from these events that offers salvation to all who believe

But it is a message in which one of Jesus' disciples says, "Lord, You're wrong!"

- And if you have not read this text recently, you may be surprised which disciple told the Lord He was wrong.
- It was not Judas.
- But Peter!

Matthew 16:21–23

21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"

23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

First we should see

I. WHAT JESUS WAS SAYING

Matthew tells us that this was the time that Jesus began to show the disciples what must happen to Him.

Matthew 16:21 From that time Jesus **began to show** to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

Matthew is not just writing, "Jesus said that."

"Began to show" translates a word that means to explain.

Jesus had mentioned His death and resurrection prior to this time. But now He begins to explain it to those who were following Him.

And in this explanation, Jesus tells them, "I must!"

Matthew 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that **He must go** to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

The word "must" means it is necessary. It is used to describe something that is binding.

Jesus said, "I must

- **Go to Jerusalem**
- **Suffer many things**
- **Be killed**
- **Be raised the third day**

I must!"

1. Jesus had to go to Jerusalem.

- Because Jerusalem was the place of sacrifice.
- God had set the example when He told Abraham to take Isaac to Moriah and lay him on an altar to sacrifice to God.
 - Then God provided a lamb to take Isaac's place.
 - Moriah was the name of the mountain upon which Jerusalem was built.
 - The temple was built upon the same place that the lamb was slain in place of Isaac.
 - The temple became the place that all the sacrifices to God were offered, the place for the slaying of the lambs.

- God promised through Isaiah the prophet that the coming Messiah would be the Lamb led to the slaughter, the Lamb who would take our place.
- God caused John the Baptist to recognize Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
- Jesus was and is The Lamb of God, and the lamb had to be killed in Jerusalem.

Jesus said, "I must go to Jerusalem!"

2. And, "I must suffer many things."

Everything prophesied about the coming Messiah, Jesus was bound to do.

Isaiah had said,

Isaiah 53:3–6 3 He is **despised and rejected** by men, A Man of sorrows and **acquainted with grief**. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 Surely He has **borne our griefs** And **carried our sorrows**; Yet we esteemed Him **stricken**, Smitten by God, and **afflicted**. 5 But He was **wounded** for our transgressions, *He was* **bruised** for our iniquities; The **chastisement** for our peace was upon Him, And by His **stripes** we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Messiah was to suffer much because of our sins, even before He died.

Jesus explained to the disciples, "I must suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes."

3. And, "I must be killed."

- In the Book of Revelation, Jesus is called, "The Lamb, slain from the foundation of the world."
- ...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)
- ...the wages of sin *is* death,
- The Heavenly Trinity, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, even before the foundations of the earth were put into place determined that the one and only way for the sin of mankind to be forgiven was through the Son of God dying in their place.
- Jesus had to be killed.
- for the gift of God which *is* eternal life to be available in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

But praise God, Jesus said,

4. "I must be raised the third day."

- The word translated be raised does not mean "remembered forever."
- It does not mean one's philosophy or influence will be lasting.
- It means to awaken one who sleeps in death.
- It means to physically raise up one who lies still on the slab of a tomb.
- It means to cause to make alive one who has died.
- That was what Jesus said had to happen to Him.

And it did! Jesus came out of the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea and walked all over Palestine for forty days. He appeared to more than 500 people.

- They saw Him.
- They walked and talked with Him.
- They touched Him and felt the scars of the wounds in His hands, feet, and side.
- They ate meals with Him.
- And they so knew that Jesus had risen from the dead that they committed their lives to Him, many of them ultimately becoming martyrs for their faith in Christ.

Jesus said, "I must

- Go to Jerusalem
- Suffer many things
- Be killed
- Be raised the third day

This is the Father's plan. This has always been My plan. This is why I left heaven and came down to this earth. This is how salvation can be offered to every man and woman and teenager and boy and girl.

So, I must!"

And

II. PETER SAID, “LORD, YOU ARE WRONG!”

Look at it again yourself.

Matthew 16:22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!”

Rebuke means

Matthew 16:22 Then Peter took Him aside and began **to rebuke Him**, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!”

Rebuke – to reprove, to denounce, to correct.

Peter tells Jesus, “You don’t need to do any of these things. You don’t need to go to Jerusalem, or suffer, or be killed. And if You’re not killed we don’t have to hope for a resurrection because You’ll still be alive.”

I read this, and I want to step into the scene being described on the page and say, “Peter, Peter. Hold your tongue. Do you know Who you are talking to?”

But Peter does know! He calls Jesus “Lord.”

Just **five minutes** and six verses **before** Peter tells Jesus He is wrong, Peter is saying,

Matthew 16:16 Simon Peter answered and said, “**You are** the Christ, **the Son of** the living **God.**”

We could spend a long time theorizing about why Peter would try to tell the Son of God He was wrong about what He must do to fulfill His mission of saving the lost.

- Was it because of Peter’s great love for Jesus personally, and he just cannot stand the thought of Jesus dying?
- Was it because Peter wondered that if Jesus died, who would raise Him from the dead?
- Was it because Peter did not understand the principle God declares in Scripture that without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness of sin?

It could be any or all of those reasons, but it does not matter.

Peter said, “I know You are the Son of God, but You are wrong.”

Just like we do

- When great tragedy strikes us or others and we think, “**I know God is in control, but this ain’t right!**”

- When we get frustrated and say, “**I know Jesus said prayer works, but it don’t work for me.**”
- When we plant our feet and think, “**I know God says to go to all the world and make disciples, but I’m not going anywhere. Right here is where I belong!**”

I said that last one.

For 23 years, I told God I was too busy to do what God told me to do.

For 23 years, I told God I was too busy to do what God created me to do.

For 23 years, I told God I had better things to do than what God told me to do.

What my reasons were really does not matter at all. Because,

III. WHEN WE DECIDE THAT GOD IS WRONG,

WE CAN KNOW FOR SURE THAT WE ARE WRONG!

That is exactly what Jesus said to Peter, only Jesus said it much stronger.

Matthew 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

- Jesus called Peter “Satan” because Satan wanted to deter Jesus from His mission just as Peter was doing, though probably without realizing it.
- Jesus called Peter an “offense” which literally refers to the bait in a trap.

And then Jesus makes a comment that is really helpful to all of us who are sometimes in Peter’s sandals telling God He is wrong about something.

Jesus reveals the ultimate cause of Peter telling Him He is wrong.

for you are not mindful of the things of God,

but the things of men.

That was Peter’s problem. **He was thinking about it man’s way, not God’s way.**

Remember, Proverbs 14:12 There is a way *that seems* right to a man, But its end *is* the way of death.

And do you recall what God said? Isaiah 55:9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

When Peter decided Jesus was wrong, he could’a, he should’a known he was the one who was wrong!

When I thought God was wrong about my going to the nations to make disciples, I was the one who was wrong! Wrong, wrong, wrong!

Whatever the situation, is there is something you are doing differently than you know God says to do it in His Word,

- About marriage about theology about coming to church or having family in church
- About giving about trials or tragedy about giving about anything

If your thinking or your doing is saying, “God is wrong,” then you can know that you are the one who is wrong.

CONCLUSION: Now, Peter repented. Later Peter wrote 1 Peter 2:24 of Christ “who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.”

I repented also. I started making disciples wherever God would allow, including the end of the earth. I go, and I take others with me so that they can experience the joy of obeying the wisdom of God. I go back to Brazil in July. You can go with me. I’ll train you and even help take care of you. Together we can obey God. My email is on the back of your worship folder.

But I quit telling God He was wrong.

If in your words, your thoughts, your actions, you are telling God He is wrong, today is the day to repent. Confess to God you have been thinking like people think rather than yielding to His wisdom. But today you go a different direction.