

## He Suffered, Was Killed...But Was Raised

By Mark Hatfield

**Matt. 16:21-23** *"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 again the third day. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, 'Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!' 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.'"*

The word "offense" is translated as "stumbling block" in other versions of the Bible. Nevertheless, what Peter did to Jesus was try to tempt Him to forego the suffering and pain of dying for our sins which would have caused Him to abort His mission and disobey His Father. While we could sit here and say that Peter meant well by standing up for the Lord, what Jesus needed at that moment was for Peter to recognize His purpose in life...to die for the sins of the world. Since Jesus knew that God does not tempt any man, He immediately attributed Peter's words to be Satanic in nature. He looked at Peter and said, "Get behind Me, Satan!" Jesus wanted to exercise His power over the devil while emphasizing to Peter that there would be nothing that would stand in the way of His suffering and death.

Another revelation of Jesus in this text is that after His painful trial and cruel death, He would rise again on the third day. There was certainly no way that Jesus would allow anyone to speak against His victory over death. Jesus wanted Peter to be mindful of the things of God. In essence, Jesus is saying, "Don't look at the here and now. I value your loyalty and friendship, but you have to know that this is something that I have to do. Even so, this is something that I want to do". While Peter wanted all of these things to be far away from the Lord, Jesus accepted them personally and pulled each part of God's plan ever so close to Him.

Jesus then humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Satan lost and man won the victory through Jesus who would not disobey the Father. Jesus rose from the dead and glory to God for what He has done for us in His Son. Those of us who have died with Christ have been raised to walk in the newness of life. We keep this feast in honor of our Lord as we anticipate His second coming. The only way if He can come again is if He rose to live again. If Christ has not been raised, we have no hope. Praise is to God...He lives. Jesus rose from the dead never to die again. Remember that is we have died with Him; we shall also live with Him.. He gives us hope that even if we die, we live in heaven with Him.

Whatever thought that you might have in mind at this time that would allow Satan to stand in your way of obeying God in keeping this memorial supper, please tell Satan to get behind you and join with us as we remember the Lord together.