

## Mt 16:21-23, Mk 8:31-33, Lk 9:18-20

### The Christ Must Suffer

#### Introduction

1. Martin Luther and the Theology of Glory and the Theology of the Cross
2. A Theology of Glory: Rationalism, Moralism, Triumphalism (man's wisdom, efforts, perfectionism, utopia)
3. A Theology of Cross: The way of suffering, based in grace through faith in Christ, the Suffering Servant

**Main Idea Peter becomes a stumbling block and articulates a demonic temptation for Jesus in the accomplishment of God's will. This is a turning point in the mission of Christ. He now sets His face like flint toward Jerusalem, where He will suffer, die, and be raised.**

#### The Theology of the Cross (Mark 8:31-32a, Matthew 16:21, Luke 9:21-22)

1. Plain Instruction
  - a. Jesus teaches the disciples He will suffer, die, and rise again
  - b. Jesus was black and white, when before this moment, He spoke in veiled, figurative language (parables) (Mk 2:20, Mt 12:40, Jn 2:19)
2. Painful Intention
  - a. Jesus, as the Son of Man, will suffer – this is a paradoxical Statement since the title, Son of Man is a regal, majestic title
  - b. The Son of Man in **Daniel 7**
    - i. **Verse 9** – A courtroom scene, the Ancient of Days is Judge
    - ii. **Verse 10** – Myriads of angels attend to His commands; all humanity stands before Him; the books are opened
    - iii. **Verses 11-12** – The earthly empires of this age are brought down; Kingdoms that have arisen, fall
    - iv. **Verse 13** – The Son of Man approaches the Ancient of Days
    - v. **Verse 14** – The Son of Man is given Sovereign dominion over all things; complete, absolute authority over all kingdoms; all will give an account to the Son of Man
    - vi. **Mark 14:61-64** – Jesus attributes the Son of Man in Daniel 7 to Himself
  - c. The Son of Man **MUST** Suffer – it is Divine necessity, predestined will of God the Father, predicted in the Old Covenant (**Acts 2:23, 4:27-28; Luke 24:25-27, 44-47**)
  - d. The Nature of The Messiah's Suffering
    - i. The Suffering of Christ did not begin at His arrest, but within the womb of the Virgin Mary (**2 Cor 8:9, Deut 22:16-18**)
    - ii. He would suffer at the hands of evil men (**Psalms 22:16-18**)
    - iii. The Father would crush Him, bearing our iniquities (**Is 53:1-10**)
    - iv. He was rejected, despised, a man of sorrows (**Psalm 118:22**)
    - v. Jesus humiliated Himself under His own creation, submitting to, enduring and absorbing the wrath of God
    - vi. Jesus was obedient to the Father's will to the point of death
    - vii. Jesus truly died (**Luke 23:46**)

3. Preeminent Incident
  - a. The Lord God, the Father, would not desert His Son (**Psalm 16:10**)
  - b. The Suffering Servant would see days beyond the grave (**Is 53:10**)
  - c. The Crucified & Risen Lord will come again (**Zechariah 12:10**)

#### The Theology of Glory (Matthew 16:22, Mark 8:32)

1. The Messiah will not suffer and die, but have total dominion over kings and rulers apart from the Cross
2. Peter presumes to teach God, or like an employer instruct the Lord and point out His mistakes; Peter rebukes God
3. Peter refuses to submit to God's teaching and will; where Peter should have been a learner and servant, he assumed the posture of tutor/master
4. Peter is a rationalist: man's wisdom, intellect, opinion over God's Word
  - a. Human understanding and rationalism falls short; the wisdom of man is foolishness to God; Man's wisdom is fallible & unreliable
  - b. Jesus' words are inerrant and infallible
5. Peter is a moralist: he does not see the significance of his own sinfulness, overestimating his righteousness and underestimating his sinful heart
  - a. The Cross demonstrates the lengths God had to go to save the soul
  - b. The Cross demonstrates the unworthiness of the sinner to enter into the Kingdom of God; Peter does not believe he needs a suffering Messiah to save him
6. Peter is a triumphalist: The Messiah is to be triumphant without torture
  - a. Triumph through self-effort and suffering means you did something wrong
7. You cannot bypass Good Friday to get to Easter

#### Theological Rebuke & Correction (Matthew 16:23, Mark 8:33)

1. Jesus gives a stinging rebuke, correcting the fool according to his folly
2. Jesus loves Peter, and corrects him in love (**Prov 28:23, 27:6**)
3. It is better to be corrected by a God of love than left alone in your transgressions
4. Jesus just called Peter a rock, now calls him a stumbling block for tempting the Lord to forgo the way of the Cross, the path of suffering
5. The rebuke of Peter is connected to the temptations of Satan on Jesus in the wilderness, when the Devil offered the Lord all the kingdoms of the world without suffering and dying, just worship him (**Luke 4:5-8**)
6. Jesus informs Peter he is in line with the Adversary, the things of man and not the things of God
7. The things of God is the way of the Cross, the way of suffering, a Messiah who would conquer by being conquered and triumph by willingly submitting Himself to His own creation in order to save it