

SBC – April 10, 2022

Matt. 16:21-23 (NKJV)

“Jesus Foretells His Death & Resurrection”

60

Prayer:

Slide # 1

Theme: *Christ the King*

Outline:

Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)

Chp. 3 The Forerunner of the King and the King's baptism.

Chp. 4 The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation; and exhibiting His kingdom resume.)

Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne as seen in the wisdom of His kingdom teaching.)

Chps. 8-10 The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)

Chps. 11-12 The Rejection of the King.

Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.

Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.

Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.

Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.

Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.

Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.

Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

Christ began His ministry by offering the kingdom to Israel on the condition of repentance as seen in Matt. 4:17. Christ then called His disciples to help Him propagate this same message (cf. Matt. 10:1-7). The ultimate issue being presented was WHO Jesus was in fulfillment of the OT Messianic prophecies.

Everything about Christ's life and ministry matched up with OT prophecy. He had the right genealogy. He had a forerunner in the person of John the Baptist in perfect fulfillment of Isaiah 40:3. He had the perfect moral qualifications in that no one could point to any sin in His life. His teaching was so profound that no one could argue with it. His miracles both in scope and type were uniquely supernatural. His life matched up with prophecy in terms of exactly where He would be born, etc. At every point the life of Jesus Christ matched up with the prophetic Scriptures perfectly.

In spite of all the Messianic evidence the nation of Israel, led by her religious leaders, largely rejected the Messianic claims of Jesus.

Then came the final test related to the ultimate issue in Christ's ministry up to this point. Jesus asked the disciples, "**Who do you say that I am?**" Everything in Christ's entire ministry is premised upon this question. For 2 and ½ years the nature of Christ's ministry had been orchestrated by God to show that He was Messiah/God. And sadly, the nation of Israel missed it.

But Peter, speaking by God's revelation, answered, "**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**" That was the RIGHT ANSWER and Jesus declared Peter blessed for saying it.

Furthermore, Jesus said He would build His Church on this ROCK-TRUTH and because of it the realm of death (the gates of Hades) would not prevail against it. Also, in this Rock-confession Jesus gave Peter the keys to the kingdom by which He would open up the door to the kingdom to the Jews on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2 and then later to the Gentiles in Acts 10.

At this point the disciples properly understood the WHO – that is the PERSON of Christ, but they did not yet understand the WORK of Christ related to the cross. Consequently, Jesus commanded them not to tell any one that He was the Christ lest the general populous break out in a misguided Messianic fever that was political in nature.

What neither the nation nor the disciples understood at this point was that Jesus as the Christ had to go to the cross. Yes, the kingdom had legitimately been offered, but in the wake of the nation's rejection of Christ as Messiah/God He now must go to the cross. This too was part of God's sovereign plan.

Matthew 16:21–23 (NKJV)

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.

This verse marks a definite transition in Christ's ministry. The language "**From that time**" indicates a shift or beginning point moving in a new direction. We see the very same language at the beginning of Christ's ministry in Matt. 4:17.

Slide # 2

Matthew 4:17 (NKJV)

17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 16:21 (NKJV)

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.

“***From that time***” in Matt. 4:17 marked the inauguration of Christ’s public ministry and His offer of the kingdom. “***From that time***” in Matt. 16:21 marks a transition in which Christ is now moving steadily to the cross. “*The first phase was primarily public, with some occasional private instruction. The second was primarily private, with some occasional public instruction.*” (John MacArthur). The kingdom ministry was largely public, the cross ministry was largely private.

Up to this time Christ had at various points made allusions to His coming death but it was not clear. Now He speaks directly to the issue (cf. Matt. 16:21; 17:12; 17:22-23; 20:18-19; 20:28).

This is not the first time He alludes to His death (cf. 9:15; 10:38; 12:40; cf. also John 2:19; 3:14), but it is the first time He discusses it openly with His disciples. – **D.A. Carson**

When it says, “***Jesus began to show***” the word “***show***” means to point out, explain, or reveal. At this point Christ is spelling it out for the disciples very clearly. This was very clear and precise prophecy.

Note Jesus said this **MUST** happen. This too was part of God’s sovereign plan that must be fulfilled. This too was part of the prophetic Scriptures which must be fulfilled as seen for example in Psalm 22 or Isaiah 53 (cf. Dan. 9:26; Zech. 12:10; 13:7).

This *must* came thundering out of eternity. It was the essential, unalterable plan on God set in motion before the foundation of the world. – **John MacArthur**

Jesus here makes 3 specific points in terms of what **MUST** come to pass.

First, He says He must go up to Jerusalem where this must take place.

This is interesting because up to this point most of Christ's ministry had taken place up in Galilee. But now the emphasis would be on Jerusalem. This must happen in Jerusalem.

Slide # 3

Luke 13:33 (NKJV)

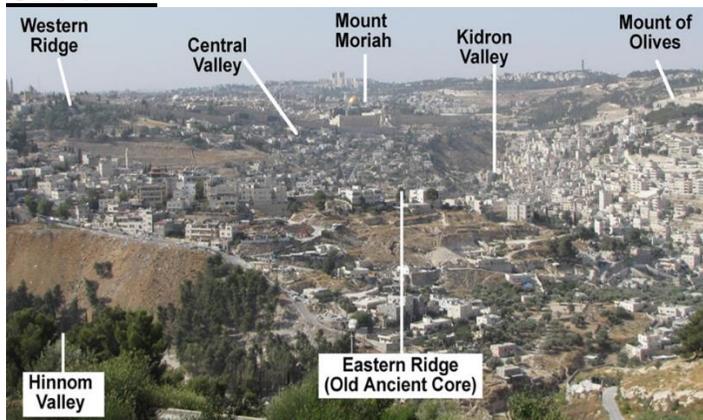
33 Nevertheless I must journey today, tomorrow, and the day following; for **it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem.**

Back in Genesis 22 God told Abraham to offer up his son Isaac on mount Moriah (Gen. 22:2). Isaac in the story is a type of Christ Who would be offered up by His Father. In the story when Isaac commented, "***Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?***" Abraham then responded by saying, "***My son, God will provide Himself the lamb...***" (Gen. 22:7-8).

That was really a prophetic statement that ultimately had Christ in view. Many believe that this is what Christ was referring to in John 8:56 when He said, "***Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.***"

But note this connection. Mount Moriah includes the edge of Jerusalem precisely where Jesus was crucified. Thus, this is where Jesus the Christ MUST be killed as prophetically typified back in Genesis 22.

Slide # 4



Moriah (according to 2 Chron. 3:1) was the location of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

The temple was the God-ordained place of SACRIFICE for God's people Israel. Thus, it was here that Christ must suffer, be killed, and rise again. In Deuteronomy 21 times God instructs that the place of sacrifice must be ONLY in the place that God chooses. It is a major emphasis (cf. Deut. 12).

Not only MUST Christ go to Jerusalem, but there He MUST suffer many things from the elders, chief priest, and scribes and be killed. This prophecy is very clear that the instigators of Christ's suffering and death would be the religious leaders in Israel. And that is exactly what happened.

There is overlap here, but the "**elders**" were the "**lay leaders**" among the various clans of Israel (cf. Num. 11:16-30). The **chief priests** were largely made up of Sadducees who were largely in charge of the temple. And the **scribes** were largely tied to the Pharisees who were the theological lawyers of the day - who were experts in the law.

It was representatives from these three groups of spiritual leaders who made up the **Sanhedrin** which was the supreme court in the land of Israel.

What is in view represents the OFFICIAL rejection of Jesus on the part of Israel. Jerusalem was the capital, and these categories of spiritual leaders represented the highest judicial ruling in the land. "**The King is going to be rejected formally and officially by Israel.**" (Stanley Toussaint)

Slide # 5

Matthew 27:20 (NKJV)

20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.

In the Scriptures "**the builders**" are seen as the spiritual leaders that God uses to build His program. Psalm 118 specifically says it would be "**the builders**" who would reject Jesus Who in reality is the "**chief cornerstone**" of what God is building.

Slide # 6

Psalm 118:22-23 (NKJV)

22 The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This was the LORD's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.

Jesus quoted this Psalm as applying to Himself, as did Peter and Paul (cf. Mt. 21:42; Mk. 12:10; Lk. 20:17; Acts 4:11; Eph. 2:20; 1 Pet. 2:4-8). Thus, Christ was the Messianic “stone” that was rejected by “the builders” (the religious leaders) in Israel.

In Matthew 23 Jesus pronounced judgment on the scribes and Pharisees in a series of Woe judgments. And then He says...

Slide # 7

Matthew 23:38–39 (NKJV)

38 See! Your house is left to you desolate;

39 for I say to you, you shall see Me no more **till** you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ ”

The sense is that until the leaders of Israel come to repentance and finally see Jesus as the Messiah that they would see Him no more.

Jesus’ prophecy that He would suffer and die at the hands of the key religious leaders proved to be 100% true. That is exactly how it went down.

But note that while it had to happen this way the people involved were responsible for their own actions. Once again, we see the tension between human responsibility and God’s sovereignty.

Both are true in a way that we cannot completely figure out.

Slide # 8

Acts 2:23 (NKJV)

23 Him, being **delivered by the determined purpose** and foreknowledge of God, **you have taken** by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

Acts 4:27–28 (NKJV)

27 “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, **were gathered together**

28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.

Human responsibility does not take away from the truth of God's sovereignty and God's sovereignty does not take away from the truth of human responsibility. Both are true. These things **MUST** happen to Jesus and yet humanity is personally responsible.

Implied in verse 21 is that Christ would not be commonly stoned to death but rather killed as a result of a "judicial" process instigated by these spiritual leaders representing the supreme court. Thus, it would be a judicial murder - so to speak.

But note there was a third "**must**" involved in what Christ said had to take place, and that is He must "**be raised the third day.**" Note again, this very precise detail. He was not to rise on the second day or the fourth day, but precisely on the third day.

While Peter (and undoubtedly all the other disciples) clearly heard and got the point about Christ being killed, it is almost like they didn't hear the last part about the resurrection. It's like it got swallowed up by what Christ had said just before this concerning His suffering and death – which is specifically what Peter took issue with.

The truth of the Messiah's death and resurrection was found in the OT – albeit the details were not clear.

Slide # 9

Psalm 16:10 (NKJV)

10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, **Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.**

In Matt. 12:39-40 and again in Matt. 16:4 Jesus alluded to the truth of His coming resurrection when He spoke of the sign of the prophet Jonah saying, "*so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*" ***But then what happens?*** He had not made that totally clear until now. Now with clarity He plainly tells the disciples that He would "**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!"

Peter responded in a very emotional way and not in a rational manner. His very behavior contradicts what he has just said about Jesus being the Christ, the Son of the living God.

WHO in their right mind takes the Son of the living God aside and begins to rebuke Him? Who in their right mind is so sure of their own ideas that they forcefully try to correct the Son of the living God? Peter was definitely not thinking consistently or acting in a consistent manner with what he has just confessed. By the way, this is what Christians do when they act contrary to the truth they have come to know.

Peter meant well. He was well intentioned, thinking this idea of Christ suffering and dying was completely contrary to His idea of a powerful victorious Christ. This just didn't make sense to him.

Now we can understand why Christ commanded His disciples not to tell anyone that He was the Christ. There were great gaps in their understanding yet at this point. They had just enough knowledge to be dangerous.

But humanly speaking we can understand why Peter reacted this way. John the Baptist had said the kingdom was at hand. Jesus had said the kingdom is at hand. The disciples had preached that the kingdom is at hand. So, the idea of suffering and death just didn't fit the kingdom is at hand theme. Of course, what he failed to realize is the truth of the kingdom parables in Matthew 13 – namely that the kingdom program has now been put on hold.

Add to this that the emphasis among the Jews was on a reigning Messiah. Yes, they did also see the idea of a suffering Messiah, but they couldn't see them in the same person. So, they saw the reality of a suffering Messiah as being a different person from the reigning Messiah. And of course, the reigning Messiah is the one that got all the attention and the one they focused on and hoped for.

Slide # 10

Jeremiah 23:5 (NKJV)

5 "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to **David** a Branch of righteousness; **A King shall reign and prosper**,
And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

Even when the angel Gabriel broke the news to Mary that she would give birth to the Messiah he did it in this way....

Slide # 11

Luke 1:31–33 (NKJV)

31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.

32 He will **be great**, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him **the throne** of His father David.

33 And **He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.**”

This reigning concept was championed by the Jews – and it was true. This was what the holy Scriptures prophesied – the Messiah would come and reign. Thus, they just did not see the truth of the cross.

After Israel’s rejection of Christ, a kingdom delay was now in process. It was no longer “***at hand***” but rather was postponed which was the MAJOR point of the Matthew 13 parables. And in that void comes the truth of the cross – not to mention the interim of the Church Age.

But note something else here. Even though Peter has just confessed Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, yet Peter felt comfortable enough with Jesus to approach Him in this manner. Christ was gracious – commanding, but gracious and approachable. If Jesus had carried Himself in a threatening and austere manner Peter would never have dared to address Christ like this. Jesus was Lord over all and yet meek and mild!

This says something about the “gentle and humble in heart” demeanor of Christ (cf. Mt. 11:29). He was approachable! Of course, that doesn’t excuse the brashness, presumptuousness, and arrogance on the part of Peter, but it does tell us something about the gracious spirit of Jesus.

Peter began to rebuke Jesus saying, “***Far be in from You, Lord***”. To rebuke means to scold in a commanding manner. It’s like suddenly Peter forgot who was Lord. Peter, albeit unwittingly, was trying to play God in telling Jesus how it was going to be.

Peter in taking Jesus aside apparently intended for this to be a piece of “private counsel” evidently thinking the Lord has misspoken.

“***No Lord***” is a misnomer – it is a contradiction. If we really recognize Jesus as Lord, the proper response is always “***Yes Lord!***”

Very literally what Peter said was, “***Mercy to you, Lord, this shall not be to you***”. Not realizing this was part of God’s sovereign plan Peter calls on God to mercifully intervene and not allow it to happen.

Slide # 12

The man who triumphed gloriously when faced with the deity of Christ, fell flat on his face when faced with the death of Christ. Godhead was possible to understand; Golgotha was impossible.

– **John Phillips**

When Peter says, **“this shall not happen to You”** he flatly contradicts what the Lord has just said. He was totally clueless about the plan of God at this point and yet very arrogantly speaks his mind like he really knows what he is talking about. Know anyone else who ever does that? It is a pretty common tendency for us humans.

The believer who complains about his sufferings and trials and asks, “Why me, Lord?” shares in Peter’s presumption. It is easy to accept God’s blessings, but not His testings. It is easy to accept prosperity and health as part of God’s plan for us, but not hardship and sickness. When joy comes to us, that seems to be our proper lot as a child of God, but when sorrow comes we are inclined to doubt our heavenly Father’s wisdom and love. – **John MacArthur**

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.”

But the LORD showing that indeed He is the LORD immediately put Peter in his place – and at this point it was a very low place. The sense is that Jesus abruptly cut Peter off and rebuked him. This is seen in verse 22 where it says Peter **“began to rebuke Him”**. He began but he didn’t get far!

Jesus turned and addressed Peter saying, **“Get behind Me Satan!”** Now that had to be jarring. Jesus had just bolstered Peter commending on him his inspired great confession. Jesus had just bolstered Peter telling him He would build His church on his great confession and that to him were entrusted the keys to the kingdom. Now this!

“Get behind Me, Satan” shows that Jesus at this point saw Peter as representing Satan. In effect, at this moment he was the mouthpiece of Satan.

The word **“Satan”** means **adversary**. At this point Peter had unwittingly become the representative or the spokesman for Satan the adversary.

That is the last place a child of God ever wants to be, but it can happen. It happened to Peter, and it can happen to you or me as well.

We can mean well and do wrong. We can be sincere and yet sincerely wrong if we are following our own heart instead of God's truth.

When Jesus says to Peter – “**Get behind Me, Satan**” that is very similar to what Jesus said, when the devil was directly trying to tempt Him as seen in Matthew 4.

Slide # 13

Matthew 4:10 (NKJV)

10 Then Jesus said to him, “**Away with you, Satan!** For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ”

Satan had offered Christ the kingdom without the cross and now in that same vein Peter is unwittingly telling Christ this shall not happen to Him – not realizing the spirit in which he was speaking (Matt. 4:8-10).

Jesus said to Peter, “**You are an offense to Me**”. The word offense is the Greek word *skandalon* meaning “**stumbling block**”. Jesus had named Peter with the name Peter meaning “stone” but now he is being a different kind of stone – a stumbling stone.

At this point the idea of Jesus being a suffering/dying Messiah resulted in Peter being a would-be stumbling block to Jesus (which of course is not possible) but in truth became a stumbling block to the Jews going forward.

Slide # 14

1 Corinthians 1:23 (NKJV)

23 but we preach Christ crucified, **to the Jews a stumbling block** and to the Greeks foolishness,

The Jews to this day continue to stumble over the truth of Christ's crucifixion. They just don't see this reality as applying to the Christ. To this day they fail to see the truth of Isaiah 53 even though it is right there in their Hebrew Bible as plain as day.

The rabbis in Israel generally forbid their people from reading Isaiah 53. It is just too dangerous. They may read Isaiah 52 and Isaiah 54 but not Isaiah 53. Some Christians in Jerusalem a while back put out hundreds of posters with a different verse from Isaiah 53 every few days always ending with the question: “***Who is the prophet speaking about?***”

Zvi was a converted Jew who lived in Jerusalem for many years. He constantly witnessed to the Jews in all sorts of ways. One time he simply read Isaiah 53 to some Jews who were angry with him for trying to propagate “***This man***” which is how they always reference Jesus because they don’t want to mention Him by name. When Zvi shared that he was simply reading out of the Jewish Scriptures they were flabbergasted.

Slide # 15

Isaiah 53:3–6 (NKJV)

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.

This is the offense of the cross – which is still to this day a stumbling block to the Jews. Peter initially stumbled over it and tried to use it as a stumbling block to prevent Christ from going to the cross.

Peter, allowing himself to be influenced by Satan, was speaking from the foolish human point of view... He did not realize that he was asking for his own eternal damnation. – ***William Hendriksen***

And then Jesus said, “***for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.***”

Note the correlation between “***Get behind Me, Satan***” and “***the things of men***”. They go together! In our natural way of thinking we line up more with Satan than we do God.

Peter in his humanness at this point was not in alignment with God's mind. Today there is such an emphasis on **subjective thinking**. People go by their **feelings** and think that because it is their feelings it is true. **Emotions and feelings** become the arbiter of what is true for people. They say foolish things like, "*Your truth is your truth, and my truth is my truth*" as if a person can somehow craft their own truth. That is utter folly!

Peter was going by his feelings – by his emotions – by his human thinking, but in reality it aligned with Satan's message. It is good to remember that God's ways are not our ways.

Slide # 16

Isaiah 55:8–9 (NKJV)

8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.

9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

We can never figure out God! We know God only by way of His revelation. He must reveal Himself to us – He must reveal His plan. Instead of running off with our own ideas and feelings we need to come back to God and His revelation.

Jesus had just revealed that He would build His church and that the realm of death would not prevail against it. Certainly, this meant first and foremost that death would not prevail over Christ the One Who builds the Church.

Peter should have been listening more closely to the last part about Christ being "raised the third day." But alas, at this point He was mindful of the things of men – thinking only about self-preservation. Self-oriented preservation and the way of the cross are mutually exclusive.

Slide # 17

Proverbs 14:12 (NKJV)

12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

It is an amazing reality that God has given humanity the ability to reason on a level that no other creature has. We as humans have the ability to reason about the things of God because we are created in the image of God.

In Isaiah 1:18 God says, “***Come now, let us reason together***”. But what does this mean? It doesn’t mean we are invited to come to God with our ideas as if our 2 heads are better than His one. No, it doesn’t work that way. God is saying, He wants us to align our reasoning with His revelation. He wants us to think His thoughts after Him. He wants us to get on His page. And God wants us to see that is a very reasonable thing to do.

God’s way is to first reveal by way of prophecy what He is going to do and then prove Himself in bringing it to pass.

Slide # 18

Amos 3:7 (NKJV)

7 Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

This is God’s pattern, and we see this very clearly in the life of Jesus the Messiah! God told us the Messiah was coming – He came. The Messiah came and upon being rejected said He would die and rise again on the third day. He did. This is the pattern!

Just as sure as everything God prophesied concerning the first coming of Christ was fulfilled to the letter, just as sure will everything be fulfilled related to His second coming. God predicts it and then invariably brings it to pass. What He calls us to do is believe Him. To be on His page of revelation. Reasoning together with God is to line up with His revelation.

Don’t listen to people – they know nothing about the future. God alone knows the future. Fulfilling prophecy is His glory that He shares with no one else (cf. Isa. 42:8-9). Rev. 19:10 says, “***the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.***”

It is amazing how the same person can on the one hand speak for God - sharing His profound truth, and then turn right around and be a mouthpiece for Satan. That was Peter’s experience and if we are honest, it also happens to us more than we would like to admit.

Constantly we have to keep check on ourselves. Is what I am saying about God just my thoughts or does it properly line up with God’s revealed thoughts? Be very sure that if it is just our thoughts then it is out of line with God and Satan is behind it.

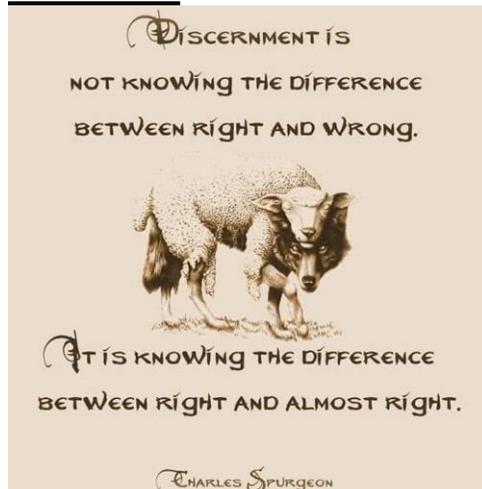
If such a thing could happen to Peter, it can happen to any believer. The same Christian who extols the plan of God can be lured into extolling the plan of Satan. When he follows his own wisdom instead of the Spirit's, the same one who has strongly taken the side of God can find himself unwittingly taking the side of Satan.

– **John MacArthur**

This is the great issue in the last days as Paul spells out in 2 Timothy. There he says the time would come when professing Christians will no longer endure sound doctrine but rather will heap up for themselves self-oriented teachers who will cater to their own desires. This is last day's apostasy that prefers human thinking over God's revelation. It becomes man-centered instead of God-oriented in perspective (cf. 2 Tim. 4:1-5).

This is why discernment and biblical thinking is so important. The question is raised, "**What is the greatest threat to the church today?**" John MacArthur answers, "**A lack of discernment**". 1 Thess. 5:21 says we are to *examine everything carefully*. How do we do that? Well, we must have a solid grip on sound doctrine and examine everything through the grid of a proper understanding of Scripture. Proper discernment is biblical discernment – involving rightly dividing and rightly applying the Word. This is biblical wisdom – and it is sorely lacking in our day.

Slide # 19



We need to set our mind on God's interests – on God's program – on God's will – on God's revelation, and not on man's.

Many professing Christians don't know the Word well and therefore they go by emotions, experiences, and feelings and they end up being mindful of the things of men instead of the things of God. They end up being the mouthpiece for Satan instead of for God.

The Bible from the beginning presents two different ways when it comes to the things of God. Cain and Able were brothers as seen in Genesis 4. Cain brought an offering to God on his own terms in accordance with his own thinking. Able brought an offering to God in accordance with God's terms according to His revelation. God accepted Abel's offering and rejected Cain's. We can only come to God on His terms and His terms are according to His revelation as seen in the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

By the way Peter did come around. After the resurrection Peter put it all together. In 2 Peter four times He speaks of Christ as "Lord and Savior". For Peter these two were linked. It is Peter who tells us we have been redeemed "with the precious blood of Christ" (1 Pet. 1:18-19). Note he clearly came to see the WORK of Christ as well as the PERSON of Christ (cf. 1 Peter 2:24-25).

This section in Matthew 16:13-23 tells the whole GOSPEL story that we need to know. It emphasizes the PERSON of Christ as well as the WORK of Christ. BOTH are essential in knowing the knowledge of the truth by which we must be saved.

Some people get right the PERSON of Christ – WHO He is as the Christ, the Son of the living God (at least on paper), but then they fail to understand the FINISHED Work on the Christ on the cross as confirmed by His resurrection. People who believe in baptismal regeneration are in this category.

Others get the WORK of Christ right but fail to properly emphasize His PERSON. Many professing evangelicals are in this camp. These wrongly jump right to the cross-work of Christ and glibly pass over His PERSON. I want to champion BOTH because BOTH are essential.

In fact, the WORK of Christ builds on the truth of the PERSON of Christ. The death of Christ builds on the truth of WHO Jesus is as the Christ, the Son of the living God. And this is the order of emphasis in how the gospels present it!

The first half of Matthew builds the truth of WHO Jesus is and leads to the all-important question: "***Who do you say that I am***"? This is answered with Peter's great confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Only THEN does Christ build with precision upon this. His PERSON is the foundational truth!

Everything builds on this. Building on this (a proper understanding of WHO Christ is), Jesus then reveals His coming cross-work, and the remainder of the book emphasizes this. But it is a package and the full gospel includes both the PERSON as well as the WORK of Christ. That is a hill to die on!

Slide # 20

THE **PERSON** OF CHRIST (God-Man)

THE **WORK** OF CHRIST (Cross/Resurrection)

PERSONAL APPLICATION! (My Lord & my Savior!)

John, the gospel of belief says those who receive Christ do so by believing in His NAME – which is WHO He is as the Christ, the Son of God (that is **His PERSON**), and thus believing we have life in His NAME (Jn. 1:12; 20:28-31).

In 1 Cor. 15 Paul says we are saved by believing the gospel unless we have believed in vain. In other words, it has to be real in our heart and if it is we continue on in the faith.

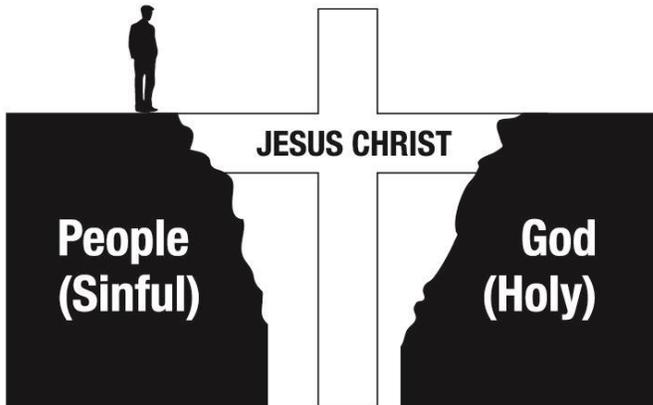
And here in 1 Cor. 15 Paul says the gospel is that Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:1-4). That is the **WORK OF CHRIST** and Christ has done it all. All to Him we owe!

This is the FULL GOSPEL we must believe, consisting of both the PERSON of Christ and the WORK of Christ.

The epistles build on the gospel truth of the PERSON of Christ and further flesh out the meaning of the WORK of Christ. The gospels are historical in nature while the epistles are more explanatory in nature.

But here is the point they go together. The foundational truth is the PERSON of Christ but building on that is the FINISHED work of Christ on the cross and His resurrection. It is one indivisible package!

Thus, as the One Who is **fully God and full Man** in one person, Jesus is the **perfect mediator** between God and mankind. And He must be personally believed on for Who He is as LORD as well as SAVIOR! This, and this alone is saving faith!

Slide # 21**Slide # 22**

Get ready and live ready!

Jesus is Lord and He is Savior! The only question that remains is this:

Is He your personal Lord and Savior?

The Bible is clear: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!