

## Episode #825 Matthew 16 Part 5-Peter Speaks for Satan

I. The purpose of the gospel of Matthew is to present Jesus as the Christ, the King of Israel. It is another grand treatise like John to prove to Israel Who Jesus really is. It is the book of being “in Israel,” in contrast to believers today who are “in Christ.”

II. Peter had just revealed that the disciples knew the Lord Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the Living God. He told them that He was going to build of Him His ekklesia on them, and that He would give Peter the keys of the kingdom of the heavens. However, He ordered them not to tell anyone that He was Jesus the Christ, cutting off all testimony.

III. Predicting the Coming Death. Matthew 16:21-23.

- A. Verse 21. This was the first such prediction of the Lord. As we follow them out, we will see He makes such predictions multiple times, and each time He gives more exact details, showing He knew just how this was going to be. Bullinger makes this the start of the third period of His ministry. “Must” is the Greek *dei*, it is necessary. Of course, this was because it was the will of God. This time He tells where it will take place (Jerusalem), the fact that He will suffer first, who will bring about the suffering (the elders, chief priests, and scribes), that He will be killed, and that He will be raised again the third day. We will see what details He adds in the subsequent predictions. “Raised” is the same word for arise or go into action, in this case after having been dead, implying of course resurrection. Notice how specific the Lord is!
- B. In Matthew 12:40, He said He would be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. This means technically He was raised the fourth day, not the third. It seems this was an expression. The Jews only counted one legally dead after the third day. This is traced back to Elijah’s and Elisha’s miracles of resurrection, I Kings 17:22, II Kings 4:34-35, which took place after less than 48 hours of death. The idea was that only God could raise one after 48 hours. This could explain why the Lord waited two days to go raise Lazarus in John 11, as well as the meaning of the phrase here. The idea, then, would be after death was final and certain.
- C. Verse 22. He began to rebuke him, but the Lord did not allow him to finish. “Be it far” is literally “merciful,” probably meaning God will be merciful to You and not allow this. “Not” represents the two Greek words for “no,” *ou* and *me*. When put together, they form the strongest possible Greek “no.” Whenever anyone other than the Lord uses this phrase, it seems he is always wrong, as Peter was here.
- D. Verse 23. Perhaps He literally turned His back on Peter. This is the same word as He used in the temptations in the wilderness in Matthew 4: “Get thee hence, Satan!” The exact same phrase as in Luke 4:8, “Get thee behind Me, Satan!” “Satan” in Hebrew means “enemy.” Yet the fact that He used the same dismissal as He used on the actual Satan in Luke 4:8 shows us that He was not simply calling Peter an enemy. The very same Peter who had been commended in verse 17 as having knowledge that came from the Father, is now condemned for speaking words that came from Satan! “Offense” is *skandalon*, an occasion of stumbling. “Mindful” is the noun *phroneo*, a characteristic word of the book of Philippians. This Greek word, among all the Greek words that have to do with thinking and minding, takes on the character of disposition. The disposition is the predominating bent or the constitutional habit of one’s mind or spirit. “Men” is *anthropos*, people. Perhaps these last words were spoken to Peter, rather than Satan. Peter had his mind and heart set on a victorious

Messiah Who would conquer their enemies. He was disposed to man's way of thinking, not God's.

#### IV. Take Up the Cross! Matthew 16:24-28.

A. Verse 24. "Will" is the Greek *thelo*, wishes or desires to. This same word "after" was translated "behind" in verse 23. Peter did want to come behind the Lord in this sense, and after His strong rebuke of Satan He offers these instructions to Peter and all His disciples, who probably agreed with Peter. This is the same word as for Peter's denials of the Lord. Peter denied his Lord, but he should have denied himself. Taking up the cross was a sign of great shame. Certain outfits will identify a person. To see a man carrying his own cross signified that this man had been guilty of some heinous crime. No Roman citizen could suffer crucifixion. This method of execution was reserved for those who had committed the most violent crimes and for slaves. To be willing to follow the Lord, means not just following Him in victory into His glorious kingdom, as they anticipated and indeed as all except Judas will do in the future resurrection. They also need to be willing to follow Him into the valley of the shadow of death, and ultimate humility; the deepest and most degrading humiliation imaginable. The Lord warns them of this now. Peter and Andrew his brother had chosen to follow Him in Matthew 4:20. He had denied himself, but he needed to do so more than he yet had.

V. Conclusion: The Lord predicted His Own upcoming death, showing that this was all according to God's settled plan. Peter rebuked Him for it, but the Lord rebuked him back, showing that his thoughts were from Satan, and not according to the things of God. He told the disciples that they were to deny themselves, take up a cross of humiliation like He was going to, and follow Him. Are we willing to go through whatever hardship we need to in order to follow our Lord wherever He leads?