

Understanding His Sacrifice

Isaiah 53:1-7 & Matthew 16:21-23

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#1 - The Prophesied Facts, Matthew 16:21

Jesus, here, gives some great detail about events leading up to and including His death and resurrection.

#2 - Misunderstanding God's Plan, Matthew 16:22

Peter's reaction is quite sharp. Peter had just acknowledged Jesus was the Messiah, yet clearly he doesn't understand all that it meant to be Messiah. Justin just read from the great prophet Isaiah that the Messiah would suffer greatly. This was not in Peter's understanding. To be fair, Peter's focus - like his fellow countrymen, was on a reigning Messiah, not a suffering One.

#3 - Understanding His Sacrifice, Matthew 16:23

Peter's rejection of what Christ must endure draws a sharp rebuke from Jesus. Jesus here is stating that Peter has just aligned himself with Satan himself in that Satan's desire was to deter Christ from accomplishing the mission God the Father had sent Him to do.

Jesus had just called Peter a rock upon which He would build His church. Moments later, Peter as a rock was acting not foundational to Jesus' church but, was acting like an obstacle or hindrance to it's founding.

Peter's rebuke of Jesus' coming death not only indicated his lack of understanding of the Messiah's necessary sacrifice but, it also indicated that his comments were not in harmony with God's will or God's desire.