

LESSON 12
 THE TRANSFIGURATION
 JUNE 24, 2020

Jesus foretells His death
 True discipleship
 Matthew 16:21-28; Mark 8:31-9:1; Luke 9:22-27

JESUS SPEAKS OF STUMBLING BLOCKS
 MATTHEW 16:21-28; MARK 8:31-9:1; LUKE 9:22-27

1. **“Get behind Me”** – Same word used in the following verse (24), **“If anyone wishes to come after Me ...”** (cf. Matthew 4:19; Acts 20:30; 2 Peter 2:10)

- Compare to Jonah chapter 4 in which Jonah “ran ahead” of God for pardoning the Ninevites.
- Our place is **“behind”** the Lord, not out in front.
- **“Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.”** (2 John 9; esv)

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2. **“Satan”** – means “an adversary” (Strong) of both God and man. (Mark 4:15)

- Why would Jesus use such a name for Peter?
- Peter was acting in an adversarial manner to the plans of God. How so?
- Who’s will would be done if Peter’s desire came to pass?
- Do Peter’s motives or intentions matter?
- We see here of the **“schemes of the devil.”** (Ephesians 6:11)

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3. **“You are a stumbling block to Me”** (1 Corinthians 1:23; cf. Matthew 18:7; Luke 17:1-2)

- By definition: “originally was ‘the name of the part of a trap to which the bait is attached, hence, the trap or snare itself’” (Vine)
- Could Jesus have stumbled? (Hebrews 2:18; 4:15)
- Romans 14:13, **“... rather determine this - not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother’s way.”**

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4. **“For you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.”**

- Refers to a mental disposition, or “mindset” towards the **“things”** of God or man. (Matthew 22:21; 2 Corinthians 4:16ff - note 5:6; Philippians 1:21-24)
- Jesus knew where Peter’s heart and affections were presently set. (John 2:25; cf. Luke 6:8; 9:47)
- Anytime we employ a fleshly mindset in our service to God, we are an adversary to our Lord Jesus Christ. (John 3:12; Romans 8:5-8; Colossians 3:1-2; Philippians 3:18-19)
- Will we encourage or discourage? (Acts 21:12-14)

JESUS' DEMANDS OF DISCIPLESHIP

“AND HE SUMMONED THE CROWD WITH HIS DISCIPLES, AND SAID TO THEM, ‘IF ANYONE WISHES TO COME AFTER ME, HE MUST DENY HIMSELF, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS AND FOLLOW ME.’”
 (MARK 8:34)

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“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone wishes to come after Me ...’ (Matthew 16:24)

- **“If ...”** – speaks of a choice we make, not something that befalls us.
- **“Anyone ...”** (2 Corinthians 5:17) or **“all who are weary and heavy-laden”**
- **“Wishes ...”** – to exercise our will with resolve and determination. (Revelation 22:17)
- **“Come after ...”** or as Jesus said to Peter: **“get behind Me”** (verse 23)
- **“he must ...”** – not optional.

JESUS SPEAKS OF DISCIPLESHIP
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1. *“... He must **deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.**”* (Matthew 16:24)
 - **“Deny self”** (disown, abstain – Matthew 26:34-35; cf. Galatians 2:20; 5:16-17; Titus 2:12)
 - “To forget oneself, lose sight of oneself and one’s own interests.” (Thayer)
 - “To disown and renounce self and to subjugate all works, interests, and enjoyments.” (Zodhiates)

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2. **“Take up his cross”** – our daily (Luke 9:23) decision to sacrifice our will and our lives for His sake. (Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 2:20).
 - Bearing a cross (willingly) to let yourself be humiliated for His sake. (Hebrews 13:12-13)
 - Being **“faithful unto death”** (Revelation 2:10; ASV, ESV)

I gave my life for thee, My precious blood I shed, That thou might'st ransomed be
 And quickened from the dead.

I gave, I gave my life for thee; What hast thou giv'n for Me?

My Father's house of light, My glory circled throne, I left for earthly night For
 wanderings sad and lone.

I left, I left it all for thee; Hast thou left aught for Me?

I suffered much for thee, More than thy tongue can tell, Of bit'trest agony
 To rescue thee from hell.

I've borne, I've borne it all for thee; What hast thou borne for me?

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3. **“Follow Me”** – indicative of two key spiritual concepts:
 - **Discipleship** (Luke 9:57-61; 18:22; John 10:3-5; 21:19-22; Revelation 14:4)
 - **Fellowship.** (John 14:6; 2 Corinthians 6:14)