

**The Road to Easter #3:**  
**The Demand of the Word “Must”**

**Matthew 16:21-28** <sup>21</sup>From that time on Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and that He must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. <sup>22</sup>Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. “Far be it from You, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to You!” <sup>23</sup>But Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me. For you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.” <sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told His disciples, “If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. <sup>25</sup>For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? <sup>27</sup>For the Son of Man will come in His Father’s glory with His angels, and then He will repay each one according to what he has done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.” (BSB)

**I. Here are the details of this passage.**

- A.** Jesus declares that He **must** suffer, that He **must** die, and that He **must** be resurrected. V. 21
- B.** Peter **disagreed** that these events must happen. V. 22 This contradictory view of God’s will is called the Great Disconnect!
- C.** Giving in to our desire to **replace** our will for God’s will opens us to being led by Satan. V. 23
- D.** Jesus declared that we must **deny** ourselves, being willing to die for God’s will and to follow Christ even unto death we cannot follow Him. V. 24-26
- E.** Who we follow and what we do shapes our **destiny**. There are only two choices: Christ’s path or Satan’s path. There is no third choice. V. 27-28

**II. How can we apply these truths?**

- A.** Any religious teaching that does **not** include the crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ is not the path of Jesus. The religion that merely is based on good behavior is not sufficient to save us.
- B.** Our will must be in **submission** with the will of God. The “Never-Lord” demand of our will must be crucified.
- C.** We must look for ways to **sacrifice** in order to keep our flesh from calling the shots.
- D.** It is important to examine our lives to see if we are truly living for **God’s** Kingdom or for **our** kingdom.