

Offending Christ

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 16:21-23.
- B. Jesus sets the things of God against the things of men. (Proverbs 14:12, Psalm 77:19, 92)
- C. God does things that we often cannot understand. (II Samuel 7, Isaiah 55:8)

II. Background.

- A. The disciples affirm that Jesus is the Christ, and He tells them that this was revealed from God.
- B. He tells them that death will not stop His kingdom. (Isaiah 38:10)
- C. He finally tells them that He would suffer and die, but this was not in the framework of the disciples' messianic viewpoint. (I Corinthians 1:18, John 13)

III. The plan of God.

- A. Jesus' ministry becomes primarily private to prepare His disciples for the ministry that is ahead of them.
- B. Satan tempts Peter to bring forth the plan of man instead of the plan of God.
- C. God's plan was necessary because of human sin, the divine requirement of shedding of blood, the divine decree and the prophetic promise.
- D. Stages of the plan.
 - 1. Jesus had to go to Jerusalem, the city of sacrifices, to die for sin. (Psalm 11, Matthew 15:1, Genesis 14:19, 22, Song of Solomon 6:4, Psalm 137:5, John 2, 7:5, 8, Revelation 11:8, Zechariah 14, Luke 13:33)
 - 2. Jesus would give His life as a sacrifice for sin.

IV. Peter holds off the plan of God.

- A. He could not see a suffering Messiah.
- B. He could not see a kingdom and a cross.

V. Jesus rebukes Peter by saying that he was an offense to Him.

- A. He knew the source and said, "Get away from me Satan!"

B. Jesus was used to the temptations of Satan so He could recognize it. (Matthew 4, Luke 4)

C. Satan despised and hated the cross because the cross was his defeat.

D. Peter had become a trap for Jesus.

VI. The principle for us.

A. We have to see the end and not merely the process by holding to God's plan over our own. (Romans 8)

B. We do not think as God thinks.

C. The Savior may not fit our divisions. If we look for a Messiah for our own plans, we put ourselves against the true Messiah.

D. There is no glory to be had without pain.

Application questions:

1. Why was Jerusalem so important to God's plan?

2. How do we often get in the way of God's plan today?

3. How can we better know the traps of Satan? Explain.
