

Jesus Went To The Cross For You

February 25, 2018 – Mark 8:31-34

“He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that He must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. But when Jesus turned and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter. Get behind Me, Satan! He said. You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men. Then He called the crowd to Him along with His disciples and said: If anyone would come after Me, he must follow deny himself and take up his cross and Me.” (See Also Luke 9:22-27; Matthew 16:21-28)

Do any of the words in this text shock you?

Jesus instructs His disciples that He will be killed.

The disciple Peter is so shocked that he rebuked Jesus.

We then hear Jesus use some shocking words to Peter, as Jesus tells Peter to “Get behind Me Satan”.

Satan was using Peter to try to derail the plan of salvation for the sins of the world.

Jesus calls Peter out for what he is, a tool of Satan.

Jesus then tells His disciples and us that as followers of Jesus, as Christians, we must deny our own desires and passions and follow Him.

To do so will not be easy, rather Jesus describes it as “Taking Up our Cross.”

It is one thing to say, “I follow and I believe in Jesus.”

It is another thing to actually put Jesus first even when we have a list of things to do on Sunday morning or when we would rather stay in bed or go play ball.

It is one thing to say, “I follow and I believe in Jesus.”

It is another thing to not curse and swear when things go wrong in our life.

It is one thing to say, “I follow and I believe in Jesus.”

It is another thing to honor not only our parents but also those in authority who we may not like.

It is one thing to say, “I follow and I believe in Jesus.”

It is another thing to not be angry with the driver who cuts you off on the road, or to not join in with the naughty and dirty stories at school or at work.

It is one thing to say, “I follow and I believe in Jesus.”

It is another thing to speak well of those who we feel have wronged us or to be happy for our neighbor who has nice things that we covet.

We thank the Lord Jesus, that He went to the cross for all our sin. AMEN