

Jesus' first prediction of His suffering

(Matthew 16:21) **was / is...**

16:21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. **16:22** Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" **16:23** But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

ABOUT...

- ...His death & resurrection
- ...why the church (16:18) was needed
- ...the Jewish leaders who opposed Him
- ...the Father allowing evil leaders to act
- ...the church replacing Israel *temporarily* (!)
- ...His submission to the Father's will
- ...His main work, about the cross
- ...the core of the gospel

NOT...

- ...what Peter **expected**
- ...understood at the time
- ...supposed to be debated
- ...critical of ordinary Jewish people
- ...the only such prediction in Matthew
- ...reported in the Gospel of John
- ...said openly in public (16:20)
- ...very positive or detailed

FOR...

- ...His first Jewish disciples
- ...those who thought like Peter
- ...Jewish believers reading Matthew
- ...those **expecting** worldly benefits

TO...

- ...help prepare the disciples
- ...help change unrealistic **expectations**
- ...be soberly applied today (16:24-26)

CLOSELY LINKED TO...

- ...Peter's confession of faith (16:16)
- ...the "church" prediction in 16:18
- ...the suffering of disciples (16:24-26)
- ...passages like 1 Peter 4:12-19

SOMEWHAT LIKE...

- ...His prediction in 26:31-32
- ...His corrective parable in Lk. 19:11-27
- ...A DEEP VALLEY, but with an uplifting end

Do you agree with the points made above? Which do you think are most important?

Directions: After reading through **Matthew chapter 16** using a good study Bible, consider and discuss how the prediction of the Lord's suffering is described above. *Do you agree with the points made? Would you change some or add new ones? At the end of the study, discuss the most important descriptive phrases and make applications.* The following questions may help with this. *Are you in a deep valley with troubles from which you do not see a way out? Are you looking at the negatives around you so much that you are overlooking the resurrection of Christ?* — © 2023 by Jon F. Mahar, Hakusan City, Japan and Alexander, Maine, U.S.A.