

“Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead. As he talked about this openly with his disciples, Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things.” Mark 8:31-32 NLT

lectio // Mark 8:22-33

Mark perfectly pairs Peter’s announcement of Jesus being the Messiah with this completely new, foreign concept of suffering. What Messiah suffers? In their mind and even in our mind today, messiah is associated with ruling, reigning, conquering and delivering justice to the earth. And most importantly, re-establishing Israel as the leader of the world. Messiah certainly could not mean suffering, rejection and especially death. Ignore the fact that all the prophets told them about the messiah and how he would come, where he would come from and very brutally spell out what would happen to him. The Jews NEVER believed that and they still couldn’t believe it then and can’t believe it today. Guess what, we can’t either! Rulers rule. They boss people around, they get things done by sheer power with laws and consequences, taxes and proclamations. Who wants a leader who is beaten, then dies? As humans we still can’t understand how true godly power works. We want leaders who sound humble, but certainly don’t behave that way. Peter pulls Jesus aside and tries to correct his thinking, saying “messiah’s don’t suffer.” What a moment of truth and clarity. Peter just spoke the obvious, it’s what we all believe to be truth. Jesus counter corrects and speaks to the LIE that lies deep within the human heart, “Peter your truth is a lie...” and it’s from Satan. “Jesus turned around and looked at his disciples, then reprimanded Peter. “Get away from me, Satan!” he said. “You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s.” Whoa! What is a human point of view? Isn’t that the ONLY view we have? Oh, but is there a way to see things from a godly perspective? How many times, how many things have I only viewed from a human point of view? Too many I’m afraid. How would Peter know, how would I know what’s God’s viewpoint versus mine? It certainly isn’t believing in a personal truth! It isn’t allowing myself to ignore ALL that God has spoken since the beginning of time and say, “oh, that can’t be true,” or “I disagree!” Have all the human point of views you’d like, but quit trying to pass it off as “your” truth, or worse, “the” truth. Our human perspective is so bent with selfishness and self will that we will ALWAYS pervert truth. In the garden, we accepted the lie to gain was not ours to grasp! And we ALL still do this. Peter wanted Jesus to grasp power and knew that by rights, the messiah could do that. But God had a much more perfect plan to fix the selfishness and sin in all of us.

Dad,

Oh, help us! Just to be able to see your point of view instead of our human ways. Oh, to find, to see and to live by your truth and receive the constant correction of your Holy Spirit to set aside our warped perspective of how the world works and hear your ways.

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root