

What Exactly Is the Messiah's Job?

Matthew 16:21—17:8

(black Bibles page 822; Children's Bibles page 1184)

This passage consists of three stunning moments for the disciples.

[1] "From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed..." (16:21)

- Peter had just said "You're the Christ." Immediately Jesus reveals what the Christ, the Messiah, must do. To suffer and die *is his job*.
- "...and on the third day be raised." But could they really *hear* this saying at the time?

[2] "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (16:24)

- Jesus' calling and destiny is also ours? Yes indeed.
- The cross: the exact opposite of any guarantee of health and wealth in this life
 - Although there is plenty of joy along the way! See verses like 1 Peter 1:8.

[3] "And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him." (17:2–3)

- Behold— the real and future Christ!
- Why did Peter say what he did? (17:4)
- Why Moses and Elijah?

"Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken" lyrics:

- 1 *Jesus, I my cross have taken, All to leave and follow Thee;
Destitute, despised, forsaken, Thou, from hence, my all shall be.
Perish every fond ambition, All I've sought, or hoped, or known;
Yet how rich is my condition, God and heaven are still my own!*
- 2 *Let the world despise and leave me, They have left my Savior, too;
Human hearts and looks deceive me; Thou art not, like them, untrue;
O, while Thou dost smile upon me, God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate, and friends disown me; Show Thy face, and all is bright.*