

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

RLJ-1942

JOHN S. TORELL

DECEMBER 24, 2023

PART 43: FOLLOWING JESUS

PREPARING THE DISCIPLES

After commending Peter for his profession of faith – Jesus being the Son of God – the God-man instructed the disciples not to speak publicly on the subject. Think about it, anyone making the claim to be God incarnate would have invoked the wrath of the religious leadership and they would have moved at once to murder the God-man. Jesus knew that He would eventually be arrested and murdered by the religious leadership, but there was still more work to be done before that time. **Matthew 16:20**

The God-man began to prepare the disciples for what was going to happen in the near future. **verse 21**

Peter pointed the finger at the Jewish elders, scribes, and the chief priests. **Mark 8:31**

While Peter had the correct mindset that Jesus was the Messiah, he mistakenly thought that the God-man would evict the Romans and re-establish the Kingdom of Israel. Peter became upset and rebuked Jesus for the morbid thoughts. **Matthew 16:22**

Jesus responded strongly to Peter and reprimanded him, going so far as to accuse Lucifer as the one inspiring Peter's words. **verse 23**

THE SUFFERING MESSIAH

The Holy Spirit spoke to Isaiah some 700 years earlier and told him what the Messiah was going to do. **Isaiah 42:1-4**

Isaiah was informed that the Messiah was going to be a suffering servant, not a militant one. **Isaiah 53:1-10**

WRONG MESSIAH

Most pastors don't expose the Kabbalah and this means that the average Christian is ignorant about its insidious doctrine and how its heresy affects the mindset of Jews who hold to its pernicious beliefs.

The Kabbalah teaches the messiah will be a man with supernatural powers like Samson. He won't come to deal with the sins of mankind, but solely to re-establish the Kingdom of Israel. This anointed man will be so powerful that he will rule the entire world and every nation will be subdued by this man and the people of Israel.

This was the belief system of the apostle Peter and the reason he vehemently rebuked Jesus when he started talking about being slain.

Simon the Canaanite was one of the men Jesus selected. **Matthew 10:4**

He was a member of the zealots. **Luke 6:15**

Simon was a nationalist who had embraced the Kabbalistic version of the messiah.



During the God-man's ministry in Galilee, Kabbalistic Jews were so impressed by the supernatural works of Jesus that they tried to coerce Him through force into becoming king and re-establishing the kingdom. **John 6:14-15**

JUDAS ISCARIOT

Judas Iscariot was selected by Jesus to become an apostle and I doubt that many Christians have understood why he betrayed the God-man. **Matthew 26:14-16**

Neither Peter nor Judas embraced the biblical concept of a suffering Messiah. After being with Jesus for some 3.5 years, Judas wanted to halt the God-man's role as teacher, healer, and preacher, and transition to the kabbalistic messiah that would re-establish the golden age of Israel.

Judas believed that when Jesus was arrested by the Jewish leadership, He would become like the comic book character Superman and rise to power. That did not happen and Judas felt sorry for his actions, but instead of seeking forgiveness, he hung himself, ostensibly to atone for his sins. **Matthew 27:1-5**

The Jewish people have been waiting for their kabbalistic messiah for the past 2,000 years. The Bible predicts this man will arrive and rise to power, with Israel climbing to a place of prominence. However, the biblical description of this man and his actions is not charitable. He is referred to as the Antichrist, the Beast, and the Man of Sin. He will subdue the earth and cause all men to worship him or die. **Revelation 13:1-8**

FOLLOWING JESUS

What is the cost of following Jesus? This is the program laid out by the God-man.

You have to deny your sinful self, reject ungodliness, and put away personal ambition. There can be no expectation of riches and fame. Be prepared to patiently endure persecution, suffering, and even death that comes with being a disciple of Jesus. In other words, you must totally surrender yourself to the Lord. **Matthew 16:24**

If you desire to insulate your life from troubles and persecution, if you want to preserve your life, that's only going to happen if you deny Jesus and abandon the gospel message. You have to be willing to waive the comforts of life, be subject to poverty and distress, and lay down your life for the Son of God and the redemption He has provided. Only in losing your life for Christ will you actually find the secret to life. **verse 25**

What do you stand to gain by the achievement of riches and fame? All the power, wealth, and pleasure cannot save your soul from the torment that exists in the Lake of Fire. What would you do to ransom your soul from such a future? **verse 26**

The majority of the Jews did not see any value in Jesus. The scandal of Roman crucifixion and the idea of a suffering Messiah did not fit the narrative of the Kabbalistic doctrine and it certainly wasn't attractive to the followers of Jesus either; hence, Peter's fervent rebuttal when Jesus shared news of His upcoming death.

The God-man declared anyone ashamed of Him would not be acknowledged when He returns in glory at the Second Coming. The warning is real. If you, being born again, reject and disown Jesus, He will do the same. Likewise, Jesus will reward those who have been faithful according to what they did on earth. **Mark 8:38; Matthew 16:27**

Jesus ended this teaching session by declaring that some of the disciples would live long enough to see Him coming into His kingdom.

These words of Jesus do not refer to His Second Coming. None of the disciples were going to live 2,000+ years. The kingdom in question would arrive when Jesus returned from Paradise and entered His resurrected body. That is when the Kingdom of God would arrive on earth! **verse 28**

The full manifestation of this kingdom was evident on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon the upper room and the New Testament church was born in a baptism of fire!

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?