

# “The Great Wager”



*“From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and scribes, be killed, and be raised on the third day. Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, ‘God forbid it Lord! This shall never happen to You.’ But Jesus turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind Me Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for **you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.**’” **Matthew 16:21-23***

## **Key Scripture References:**

**Matthew 16:13-23; Luke 22:3-4; 2 Thessalonians 3:3; John 17:15; Psalm 63**

## **Key Questions for Walking with Jesus**

1. How are the accounts in Matthew 16:21-23 and Luke 22:3-4 similar? Different? What is the key question that must be asked when comparing these two accounts?
2. Why is Matthew 16:13-20 so important? How does it relate to Matthew 16:21-23?
3. How did Satan tempt Jesus in Matthew 4 and 16; Mark 1:12-13; and Luke 4:1-2? Why did Satan not try to just kill Jesus?
4. What is the promise God revealed in Genesis 3:15? Why must this refer directly to Jesus? Why would no one else ever come remotely close to being qualifying?
5. How does Luke 22:1-6 show the human and satanic enemies of Jesus plotting against Him? Why is this important? What biblical truths can we learn from this passage?
6. What is significant for Jesus’ suffering in Satan’s “hour of darkness” in Luke 22:53?
7. How much angelic assistance was available to Jesus in Matthew 26:53-54? Why did He refuse to call on their help?

8. What does Scripture reveal about demons, Satan's "angels?"
9. What was required for Jesus to be the perfect Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29; 1 Peter 1:18-19)?

### **Key Questions for a Deeper Walk with Jesus**

10. How does Jesus' humanity make you appreciate Him more? See Hebrews 4:15.
11. Though Jesus was completely human just like you, He was "uniquely human." How was His human experience similar to yours? Different from yours? Why were the burdens He carried far heavier than yours? How does this make you appreciate and love Him more?
12. What would've happened to you if Jesus had called for angelic help during His suffering and death?
13. Referring to His suffering and death, why did Jesus say to the eleven disciples, and He still says to you today, "Where I am going, you are not able to come"? How does this make you appreciate Jesus even more?
14. Peter was influenced by Satan to put his own interests ahead of God's, and Jesus rebuked him. Are you living for God's interests or for your own? Explain.
15. What can you do to live for God's interests and not your own? See 2 Corinthians 5:15.
16. How do we tend to follow Jesus "at a distance," like the Apostle Peter did?
17. "Longing for God" is the very heart of true religion (Psalm 63). Why is this so rare in today's world? How and why do Christians seek their satisfaction in things other than God?

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