

“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

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.



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LUKE 22:53

Matthew 16:21-23

Luke 22:3-4

Similar: Satan uses an Apostle of Jesus to hinder/attack Him.

Different: the task Satan wanted the Apostle to accomplish: Peter to hinder Jesus; Judas to force Jesus.

Matthew 16:13-20

Peter speaks from God in v17

Peter speaks from Satan in v23

Jesus “turned” to speak in v23

- He knew the source!

Temptation of the Christ

Continuously – Mark 1; Luke 1

Satan appealed to comfort and shortcuts.

Jesus did not come for a life of ease, but to be a Servant – then why do we seek a life of ease?

Beware!

When Peter rebuked Jesus and tried to dissuade Him, it was a **temptation disguised** to cause Jesus to abandon God's plan. When we seek our own interests, we are not seeking God's.

Satan's Tactics

Why not just kill Jesus?

He did! (Matthew 2:1-18)

He had no authority from God.

God's standard for holiness was so strict, Satan did not need to kill Jesus; he would just make Him sin!

Genesis 3:15

“One born of a woman will ultimately lead to Satan’s eternal destruction.”

An endless stream of potential deliverers failed miserably.

Only Jesus met God’s holiness standard in His humanity.