

# HIS Suffering



## Mark 8:27–38, NIV

27 Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way, he asked them, “Who do people say I am?” 28 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” 29 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.” 30 Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him. 31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. 32 He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.” 34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? 37 Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? 38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

## His Suffering- outline

**Will the Real Jesus please stand up!**

**The Suffering ‘Hero’**

**Losing to Win**

## His Suffering - Reflection Questions

1. There are many opinions about who Jesus is. Even in Jesus day, there were many opinions.
  - a. Why do you think Jesus was interested in what people were saying about him?
  - b. Why do you think there were so many different ideas about who he was?
  - c. What do all the ideas have in common?
2. Jesus redefines 'Messiah' in a way that is offensive to the disciples to the point where Peter 'rebukes' Jesus. Why do you think Peter's thinking was so different from Jesus on the idea of Messiah? What were the main differences in defining Messiah?
3. Why was it important for Jesus to distinguish between a 'superhero' (Peter's idea) and a "suffering-hero" (Jesus' idea). What did Jesus say was behind the difference (cf., v.33).
4. Cultural ideas and pressures helped shape Peter's understanding of the Messiah even as cultural ideas and pressures shape many of our thoughts. What are some ideas in our culture that are in conflict with Jesus' teaching on the Kingdom of God?
5. Read Peter's sermon in Acts 2. How has Peter changed his thinking regarding the Messiah in this sermon?
6. Jesus tells us the way to win is to lose. It is only as we give up this world's way that we can enter into God's way. What are some key ideas vv.34-38 that help us understand this "upside-down Kingdom" that Jesus invites us to enter?
7. Jesus' critique of Peter shows us our basic problem as we journey on the Red Letter Road -- human concerns vs. God's concerns (v. 33). What are some things we can do to help counteract the immense gravitational pull of this world's ideas in our thinking?



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## WITH JESUS



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# HIS Power



## Luke 11:14-23, NIV

14 Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon left, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowd was amazed. 15 But some of them said, "By Beelzebul, the prince of demons, he is driving out demons." 16 Others tested him by asking for a sign from heaven. 17 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. 18 If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebul. 19 Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. 20 But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. 21 "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. 22 But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his plunder. 23 "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

## His Power- outline

### Jesus' Power Revealed (vv.14-16)

Three Responses:

Fans (*John 6:66*)

Foes (*Matt 15:14*)

Factfinders (*Matt 12:39*)

### Jesus' Power Explained (vv. 17-23)

I am Satan's enemy (*1 Jn 4:4*)

I am Stronger than Satan (*Heb 2:14b; Php 2:5-11*)

Are you with me? (*John 6:68-69*)

## His Power - Reflection Questions

1. Have you ever done something where your motivations were wrongly criticized? How did that make you feel?
2. Why do you think some people in the crowd (the foes) opposed Jesus such an extreme accusation (partnering with Beelzebul (v.15)? Why do we have the urge to vilify those we disagree with?
3. Some people in the crowd saw Jesus' power but needed more proof to believe. What did Jesus say to them here to help them find faith? Do you think Jesus' rational argument about the "finger of God" was enough to convince either group of critics? For 'factfinders' in our day, do you think there will enough evidence to satisfy them? Why / why not?
4. Jesus shows his power in this passage. What are some other ways that Jesus displayed supernatural power? When we consider John 1:1; Luke 4:1, 14, Phil 2:5ff., together, what does this tell us about Jesus' nature and the source of power?
5. Jesus is against the work of Satan (Beelzebul). How does 1Jn 4:4 give us confidence as Jesus' followers? How does this connect with Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 10:13?
6. How do you reconcile Jesus' words in v.23 with his words in Mk 9:38-40? What is different about the context of these sayings? What will you do this week to identify yourself as standing with Jesus?



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# HIS Empty TOMB



## Luke 24:13-35, NLT

13 That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. 16 But God kept them from recognizing him. 17 He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?" They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. 18 Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days." 19 "What things?" Jesus asked. "The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. 20 But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. 21 We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago. 22 "Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. 23 They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! 24 Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said." 25 Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. 26 Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?" 27 Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. 28 By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey.

## Luke 24:13-35, NLT (continued)

Jesus acted as if he were going on, 29 but they begged him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." So he went home with them. 30 As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. 31 Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared! 32 They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" 33 And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, 34 who said, "The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter." 35 Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread.

## His Empty Tomb - outline

### Our world considers the resurrection of Jesus implausible and not believable so . . .

#### 1. How do we make sense of this?

**Discuss** -- "they talked and discussed. . ." (v.15)

**Discover** -- "their eyes were opened. . ." (v.31)

#### 2. How do we tell our story about meeting Jesus?

**Decide** -- "our hearts burned within us..." (v.32)

**Declare** -- "the two. . . told their story..." (v.25)

## His Empty Tomb - Reflection Questions

1. When you read the story in Luke 24:13-35, what feature stands out to you most? Why?
2. Jesus told his disciples multiple times that he would die and be raised on the third day, why do you think these disciples were so perplexed and sad (cf., v. 17).
3. Why do you think Jesus took so long to reveal himself to his disciples?
4. In v27, Jesus says shares all the Old Testament said about Messiah. How does this shape the Christian reading of the Old Testament?
5. This text shows us that sometimes Jesus is present with us even when we don't realize it. How have you found that to be true in your life? Are you in a season right now where it's hard to recognize Christ's presence or are you seeing him at work? Explain.
6. What do you think they meant by "our hearts burning within us"? Have you ever had the kind of experience where you knew Jesus was present? Share.
7. The disciples didn't know how Jesus rose from the dead and didn't know the answers to a lot of other questions, yet they declared their experience with the risen Jesus. What can we learn from this? Why is it important for us to learn from this?



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