

## **Matthew 16:21-23**

Behind Me Satan!

*True confession ...*

- I. Contradiction
  - A. Jesus' Shocking Claim
  - B. Peter's Gut Reaction
- II. Correction
  - A. Peter's Counsel
  - B. Jesus' Rebuke
- III. Crucifixion
  - A. God's Will
  - B. The Devil's Work
  - C. Jesus' Will

*... claims the cross.*

### **Children, Listen ...**

1. What does Jesus tell the disciples?
2. What does Peter think of that?
3. What does Peter try to do?
4. Why is that a bad idea?
5. Jesus will willingly go to the cross and die. Why did He do that?

## **Of Man & the Devil**

Peter unwittingly promotes a devilish scheme ... literally. Upon hearing Jesus' description of what will soon take place in Jerusalem the apostle responds in, what is at least on the surface, a reasonable way. The idea of Jesus suffering and dying is incomprehensible on so many levels and Peter will have none of it! But we know, what Peter did not know at the time, that is, that Jesus' willing sacrifice leads to His exaltation and our salvation. What may be a little confusing is the 'devil' part. Does the Satan want to divert Jesus from the cross? Or is he behind the push to get Him there? Or is it both? Perhaps the deceiver is deceived and desperate. Whatever the case may be, nothing can thwart God's plan of redemption through the cross, and Peter needed to know that. His previous confession was true but incomplete: a true confession of Christ as Savior must include the cross.