

**Discussion and Reflection Questions**  
**Pentecost 14A - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2023**

**Read: Matthew 16.21-28**

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup> And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' <sup>23</sup> But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' <sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? <sup>27</sup> 'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup> Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

**Discussion & Reflection Questions**

1. It's helpful to read the preceding section so spend a bit of time reading 13-20 & ask yourself what difference the passage makes when read together as a whole (text below questions if that's helpful)
2. Peter wants Jesus to be a different type of Messiah. What sort of Messiah do you think Peter wants Jesus to be?
3. We all have the ability to want Jesus to be different or special just for us. In what ways do you create Jesus to be Messiah that is different to what we read in scripture?
4. How do you think Peter would have felt when Jesus said "Get behind me Satan"? Does this phrase remind you of any other part of the gospels? (hint Matthew 4)
5. In what ways do you carry your cross?
6. Peter holds Peter accountable for his words & sets him & the other disciples right. How are you held accountable in life & in your faith journey.
7. We see Jesus authority in this passage. But authority that "authors" & keeps Peter in community. How do you see authority in your life & the church?
8. How is accountability & authority for the benefit of others

### **Extra reading Matthew 16:13-20**

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' <sup>14</sup>And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' <sup>15</sup>He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

### **Prayer**

O God,  
whose Son has shown the way of the cross to be the way of life:  
transform and renew our minds  
that we may not be conformed to this world  
but may offer ourselves wholly to you as a living sacrifice  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.