

## God's Ways Are Not Our Ways

**Text:** Mark 8:31-33

**Context:** Immediately after Peter's correct confession of Jesus as the Christ (messiah), Jesus informs the disciples of his coming death on the cross and of his resurrection. This is the first of the three passion-resurrection predictions in Mark (See the others in Mark 9:31–32 and Mark 10:32–34). Jesus had come to do his Father's will, and nothing was going to stand in his way.

### To understand the ways of God better...

#### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ the messianic purpose of Christ (vs. 31)

- A. The Israelites were looking forward to a warrior messiah who would liberate them from bondage to the Romans.
- B. Jesus corrects the disciples' messianic expectation by stressing that the Son of Man must (cf. 9:12; 14:21, 41) be killed (cf. 9:9, 12, 31; 10:34, 45; 14:21, 41) and rise again (cf. Isa. 53:1–12). Christ's death is necessary because the eternal, messianic rule of God begins with atonement for sin, i.e., the sacrifice that will bring about reconciliation between God and man. (ESV Study Bible)

#### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ out of his way (vs. 32)

- A. When the disciples were opposing the work of Christ, they were unknowingly advocating the work of Satan.
- B. When Jesus rebukes Peter, he looks at all of his disciples - his rebuke was meant for all of them.
- C. God's eternal plan was that Jesus would come into the world to die for sinners. Revelation 13:8 tells us that Jesus was planned to be slain "before the foundation of the world." Galatians 4:4 calls the event of the cross, "the fullness of time."

#### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ your plans to God's plans (vs. 33)

- A. That Jesus would have to suffer and die at the hands of the religious rulers was too much for Peter to comprehend at the time.
- B. The disciples had to learn to set their mind upon the "things of God" and not the "things of man." We are no different.