

Take up Your Cross Mark 8:31-35

Jesus prophesies to His disciples of His own suffering, death, and resurrection after three days. This was the work of the Messiah, sent by God into the world. Peter, the first disciple, expresses his opinion to Jesus. His behaviour is not completely incomprehensible. Peter, in his zeal to glorify God, cannot comprehend the unprecedented event of the Son of God being "*rejected and killed*". It's for the salvation of humanity... God, in His infinite love for mankind, sacrifices His own Son, Jesus.

The Gospel does not simply conform to the desires and demands of society. God's work cannot be measured by common sense. Jesus sternly rebukes Peter, saying, "*Get behind me, Satan*". The Lord tells him to think not as men do, but as God does. "*Take up your cross and follow me*" may imply that people should, to some extent, separate themselves from their desires and wants. It entails freedom or liberation from prioritising only worldly life. However, Jesus expects us to actively accept God's will.

Jesus' death on the cross is a substitutionary atonement for those who believe in Him. What is our cross in following the Lord? It's certainly not death for the redemption of others. It will be gratitude for the faith given and the determination to continue to defend the Gospel in the face of life's many difficulties. For the sake of the Gospel, let us be willing to suffer the slightest worldly loss and continue to strive for the Kingdom of God.