

# August 09, 2009

## Sentinel

Jesus said in **Luke 9:22** that, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”

What you need to notice in this passage of Scripture is the order of things to come for Jesus. He said he would have to suffer, be rejected, and slain before He would be resurrected. Suffer, be rejected and slain before the resurrection. Think about that for a few minutes. This speaks of Christ unique and substitutionary death, yet this order -suffer, rejected, slain and raised- is immediately related by Jesus Christ himself, in verses 23 and 24, to us, the Christians. “And He said unto them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself (renounce himself), and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.” Here Jesus takes this unique order that was so necessary for our redemption in the unique substitutionary death of the a Lord Jesus Christ and applies it to the Christian’s life. The order-suffer, rejected, slain, & raised- is also the order of the Christian life of true spirituality; there is no other.

I know this type of teaching isn’t were popular today, but to be honest the true teaching of Jesus have never been popular with the world, there are only popular with those that have made Jesus Lord and Savior of their life. In these verses and other verses following Jesus is talking about our death by choice in this present life. Jesus is never tries to romanticize or idealize the truth of what it cost to follow Him. He tells us we will suffer, be rejected by the world, have to die to self and the things of this world and then we will inherit eternal life and heaven.

As Christ’s suffering, rejection and death are the first steps in the order of redemption, so our suffering, rejection and death to things and self are the first steps in the order of true and growing spirituality. As there could be no next step in the order of Christ’s redemption until the step of death was taken, so in the Christian there can be no further step until these first three steps are faced-not in theory only, but at least in some practical practice. All true believers understand the truth that when God starts molding us into the image of His Son Jesus there will be some pain when He begins to help us die to self so that Christ within us can live.

Let me ask you; How much thought does the necessity of death by choice provoke in you and how much conversation? How much prayer does this truth provoke for ourselves and those we love? Is it not true that our thoughts, our prayers for ourselves and those we love, are almost entirely aimed at getting rid of the negative things in our life at almost any cost-rather than praying that the negatives might be faced in the proper attitude. How much prayer do we make for our children and those we love that they indeed be willing to walk, by the grace of God, through the steps of suffering, rejection and being slain? We are over ran by the attitudes of the world, rather than the attitudes of the perspective of the kingdom of God. Not that we are commanded to live only in the negative, but we must not think we can rush on to the resurrected life now and in the kingdom of God without the reality of suffering, being rejected and slain not just when we become a Christian but also as a continuing part of our everyday lives.

In Christ Service,

Pastor Preston