

## Exactly Where is that Broccoli in my Teeth?

13 Pentecost A – Aug 30, 2020

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Matthew 16:21-28

21 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. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." 23 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." 24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26 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? 27 "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. 28 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."

*Jesus has been instructing his disciples about the mission they are to carry out on his behalf, about telling the good news. Now his message to them shifts to teaching them that he, the Messiah, must (per God's will & purpose), undergo great suffering – something inconceivable to most Jews. Peter grasped that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God”, (v. [16](#)) but he cannot yet deal with the impending death of the Messiah, rather than his direct ascendance to glory. Then v. [24](#): to be Jesus' followers, we must devote the foundation of our lives to God (“deny themselves”). Be willing to give up physical comfort and possibly safety, accepting martyrdom if necessary. This approach to life represents the ‘fullest’ leaning into God’s promises. V. [26](#) asks a rhetorical question: nothing that one can get or “gain” now measures up to what God will give to the faithful. There will be a reckoning, when Jesus comes in glory at the end of time. Some who hear these words now will still be alive at the Judgement Day (v. [28](#)). People in the early church expected the age to end within their own lifetimes; however some today see the Transfiguration (which follows in Chapter [17](#)) or the Crucifixion/Resurrection as fulfilment of this prophecy. ©1996-2020 Chris Haslam; [montreal.anglican.org/comments/apr18m.shtml?](http://montreal.anglican.org/comments/apr18m.shtml?)*

- A) Who is the person whom you allow to tell you when you have broccoli in your teeth?

- B) What does it feel like to trust someone so much that you know in their 'honest truth telling' you will likely have your feelings hurt YET it will likely also give you important information or an experience you need in order to grow? What is it like to open yourself up to the reality or chance that you are wrong? Or need to adjust your thinking? Or need to grow up in your attitudes/perceptions? How do you see Peter showing this in these verses?
- C) God has brought each of us into being for a variety of purposes but all fulfilling the One Vision that Life would be received/enjoyed and shared, that the Kingdom would be seen and brought forward more fully and that as people we have been given all the gifts/abilities/qualities/resources needed to accomplish this (ALL are needed). The Cross is the world's way of trying to stop Jesus from being who he actually is.... fulfilling his identity and purpose in life. What is A current Cross for you to bear.... something that is a burden that is preventing or hindering your ability to become fully who you are, accomplishing your purposes in life and accomplishing your role in Kingdom life?
- D) What needs to happen for this burden to be resolved/worked thru/worked around so you can be the Child of God that God has gifted, called, privileged you to be and accomplish your part in Kingdom work?