

# THE KING'S SUFFERING

## MATTHEW 16:21-28

There is no spiritual life for you, for me, for any man, except by dying into it. Have you a fine-spun righteousness of your own? It must die. Have you any faith in yourself? It must die. The sentence of death must be in yourself, and then you shall enter into life.

Charles Spurgeon

### I. An Unexpected Plan

## II. An Unexpected Path

### **Into the Bible:**

1. As Pastor Matt has reminded us, “taking up our cross daily” is significantly more than just carrying the burden of being a Christian in the world. It means dying to ourselves—daily. While that maybe seems overly harsh and dramatic, what is the key result that is *only* made possible this way? (Galatians 2:20, 5:24-25; I Peter 2:24)

### **Application:**

2. At the beginning of this passage Peter is rebuked for essentially challenging God’s plan for the Messiah, but to him, the death of the promised Messiah was illogical and wrong. What should we remind ourselves when God’s direction in our lives goes counter to what we expect and desire? (Isaiah 55:8-9, Romans 11:34, Jeremiah 29:11)

3. Verse 26 inverts the definition of success in the kingdom of God. When they look at the way I live my life and what I appear to be working for, shouldn't those outside my faith in Christ be confused by my priorities in life? (Matthew 6:19-20, Colossians 3:2, Matthew 6:32, Philippians 1:21)

### **For Families:**

4. Talk with your children about what it means to listen for God's direction in our lives.