

# Luke 17:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation.

## Analysis

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**But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation.** Jesus abruptly shifts from future glory to present suffering. The word **first** (πρῶτον, prōton) establishes chronological necessity—before the glorious return (v. 24), the suffering servant must endure the cross. **Must he suffer** (δεῖ αὐτὸν πολλὰ παθεῖν, dei auton polla pathein)—the verb *dei* (δεῖ) indicates divine necessity, not mere prediction. God's redemptive plan required Messiah's suffering (Luke 24:26, Acts 17:3, Hebrews 2:10). The phrase **many things** (πολλὰ, polla) hints at the comprehensive nature of His passion: betrayal, arrest, trials, beating, mocking, crucifixion.

**And be rejected of this generation** (καὶ ἀποδοκιμασθῆναι ἀπὸ τῆς γενεᾶς ταύτης, kai apodokimasthēnai apo tēs geneas tautēs)—the verb *apodokimazō* (ἀποδοκιμασθῆναι) means to reject after examination, to disqualify, to refuse as unworthy. It's used of builders rejecting a stone (Psalm 118:22, quoted in Luke 20:17). **This generation** (τῆς γενεᾶς ταύτης, tēs geneas tautēs) identifies Jesus' contemporaries—the Jewish leaders and people who would cry 'Crucify him!' (Luke 23:21).

This verse prevents triumphalist eschatology divorced from suffering. Before crown comes cross; before exaltation comes humiliation; before glory comes rejection. Jesus models the pattern believers must follow (Luke 9:23, 14:27). The 'already/not yet' kingdom includes present suffering and future glory. Those who long for 'the days of the Son of man' (v. 22) must first walk the way of the cross.

Suffering isn't accidental or avoidable—it's the path Christ took and calls us to follow.

## Historical Context

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Jesus repeatedly predicted His suffering, death, and resurrection (Luke 9:22, 44, 18:31-33), but disciples couldn't comprehend how Messiah could suffer. Jewish expectation emphasized Messiah's conquering power (Daniel 7:13-14), not suffering servanthood. They missed Isaiah 53's suffering servant prophecies, unable to reconcile victorious Messiah with rejected sufferer. Peter even rebuked Jesus for predicting death (Matthew 16:22).

The phrase 'this generation' carried ominous weight. Jesus elsewhere condemned it as 'wicked and adulterous' (Luke 11:29), more culpable than Sodom and Nineveh (Luke 10:12-14, 11:31-32). Their rejection of Messiah would bring covenant judgment—Jerusalem's destruction in AD 70 (Luke 21:20-24). Yet even this generation's rejection served God's redemptive purpose: their delivering Jesus to crucifixion accomplished atonement for sin (Acts 2:23, 4:27-28). God's sovereignty turns human rebellion into salvation's accomplishment. Still, willful rejection brings accountability—advantages increase responsibility (Luke 12:47-48).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus' emphasis on suffering before glory challenge prosperity gospel theology that promises immediate blessing?
2. What does it mean practically to embrace the necessity of suffering in Christian discipleship?
3. How should the pattern of rejection-then-vindication shape believers' expectations during persecution or opposition?

## Interlinear Text

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πρῶτον	δὲ	δεῖ	αὐτὸν	πολλὰ	παθεῖν	καὶ
first	But	must	he	many things	suffer	and
G4412	G1161	G1163	G846	G4183	G3958	G2532
ἀποδοκιμασθῆναι	ἀπὸ	τῆς	γενεᾶς	ταύτης		
be rejected	of	G3588	generation	G3778		
G593	G575		G1074			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 16:21** (Parallel theme): From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

**Luke 9:22** (Parallel theme): Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day.

**Mark 8:31** (Parallel theme): And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

**Isaiah 53:3** (Parallel theme): He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

**Mark 12:10** (Parallel theme): And have ye not read this scripture; The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner:

**Matthew 21:42** (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

**John 1:11** (Parallel theme): He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

**Luke 18:33** (Parallel theme): And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again.

