

Matthew 16:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

Analysis

Peter's rebuke 'Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee' reveals well-meaning but satanic opposition to God's will. The Greek 'hileos' means 'God be merciful/gracious to you,' essentially 'God forbid!' Peter's love for Jesus led him to oppose the cross—and thereby oppose salvation itself. Reformed theology recognizes that even believers can speak against God's purposes when trusting human wisdom over divine revelation. The cross was essential; opposition to it, however loving, served Satan's purposes.

Historical Context

Peter had just confessed Jesus as Messiah (16:16) and received Jesus' blessing. Now he's rebuked as Satan for opposing the Passion. This whiplash demonstrates how quickly human thinking diverges from God's ways. Jewish messianic expectations focused on conquering Rome, not suffering. Peter's rebuke reflected these cultural assumptions rather than divine revelation. His later transformation shows how the Spirit corrects fleshly thinking.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. When has good intention led you to oppose God's will?
2. How do you distinguish between protecting loved ones and hindering God's purposes?
3. What 'crosses' in your life might you be wrongly resisting?

Interlinear Text

καὶ προσλαβόμενος αὐτῷ ὁ Πέτρος ἤρξατο ἐπιτιμᾶν

Then took him G3588 Peter and began to rebuke

αὐτῷ λέγων, Ἰλεώς σοι κύριε· οὐ μὴ ἔσται σοι

him saying Be it far from thee Lord G3756 G3361 be from thee

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Additional Cross-References

Mark 8:32 (References Peter): And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him.

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