

March 11
Turning Point

None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give God a ransom for him. For the redemption of their life is costly, no payment is ever enough –
Psalm 49:7-8

[Mark 8:31-9:1, Caesarea Philippi] Now when Jesus came into the parts of Caesarea Philippi, as he was praying alone he asked his disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

They said, “Some say John the Baptizer, some, Elijah, and others, Jeremiah, or one of the old prophets is risen again.”

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. I also tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my assembly, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give to you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven; and whatever you release on earth will have been released in heaven.” Then he commanded the disciples that they should tell no one that he was Jesus the Christ. He began to teach them that the Son of Man must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He spoke to them openly.

He began to teach
them that the Son of
Man must...be killed

Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, “Far be it from you, Lord! This will never be done to you.” But he, turning around, and seeing his disciples, rebuked Peter, and said, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me for you have in mind not the things of God, but the things of men.”

He called the multitude to himself with his disciples, and said to them, “Whoever wants to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it; and whoever will lose his life for my sake and the sake of the Good News will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world, and forfeit his life? For what will a man give in exchange for his life? For whoever will be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man also will be ashamed of him, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels and then he will render to everyone according to his deeds”

He said to them, “Most certainly I tell you, there are some standing here who will in no way taste death until they see the Kingdom of God come with power.” [Matthew 16:21-28, Luke 9:18-27]

1. Mark wrote with Peter’s help, and this is the turning point in his gospel. Why is this so?
2. When have Jesus’ words conflicted with the way you thought things should be?
3. Jesus, you rocked Peter’s world, yet you called him “rock”; help me to be like Peter...

