

# The Hard Sayings of Jesus

Matthew 16:21-23

# From Christmas to the Cross



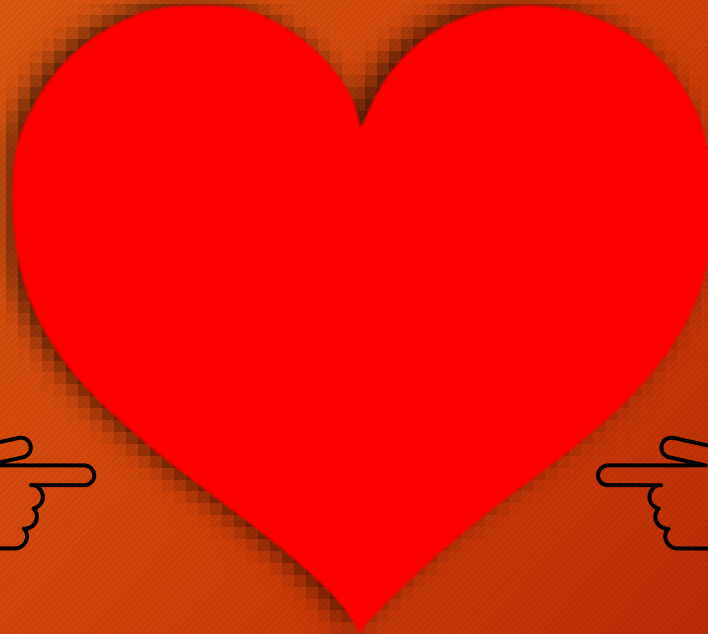
# Church Calendar



# Biblical Timeline



# Common Major Themes



# Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year



# What happens between Christmas and the Cross?

**John 3:16**



**The Life  
The Ministry  
The Teachings  
of Jesus**

**Mark 15:37**



# Peter



# Matthew 16:21-23



# A Hard Saying of Jesus

- *“Get behind me, Satan!”*
- *“You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”*



# Opening the door for Satan

Whenever we think that we have a better plan than God OR reject God's perfect plan for us, that opens a door for Satan to enter!



# Satanic responses bring on the Hard Saying

- To accept Jesus who loves us so much but reject or rebuke how he chooses to love us
- To oppose God's perfect plan for our life
- To think that we have a better plan than God.
- To say to Jesus, "No. Never. It shall not be this way."



# A Love Story



# Selective hearing



“and on the third day be raised to life”

# How shall we respond to this hard saying?

1. Acknowledge Satan exists and is real
2. Acknowledge that Satan wants to sabotage God's All-for-Love plan (John 3:16) and he wants us to partner with him in that sabotage
3. Ask the Lord to examine our heart and mind and see if there be any wicked way in us (Psalm 26:2, 139:24)

# How shall we respond to this hard saying?

4. Align ourselves with the thoughts and ways of God (Isaiah 58:8-9)
5. Admit we have selective hearing and repent (John 14:26)
  - “You came from heaven to earth to show the way, from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay, from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky, Lord I lift your name on high”

“Get behind me, Satan”

Matthew 16:21-23