

## ***"Get behind me, Satan!"*** ***Setting our minds on the things of God***

By Marc

There are still many parts of the Bible that we don't even have in rough draft for the Lele people.

When I was reading Mathew the other day, I was struck by the powerful words we hear Peter say in chapter 16, when Jesus asks his disciples who they say he really is.

*"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

If we're watching the movie, the orchestra music gets a bit louder. We see a stream of light shining through the clouds on Jesus' face.

But moments later the music drifts into a minor key. Jesus' face is troubled as he starts telling his disciples about the road ahead—how he must suffer many things at Jerusalem and even be killed...

*"Far be it from you Lord! This shall never happen to you,"* Peter interrupts before hearing the rest.

Now we can see the sorrow on Jesus face turn to raw anger...

*"Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."*

*Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

*Colossians 3:2-3*

**TRANSLATION PROGRESS** Pray for Jonas, Pierre and Marc as they continue rough-drafting, exegetical checking and correcting text. Pray for Jonas and Pierre as they do village comprehension checking in the book of Luke these next few months.

**LELE LITERACY** Praise God for Elisabeth and Pierre who continue to teach village literacy classes. They now have 27 students coming to classes each Sunday. Some of the students are believers but others are not. Pray for these classes to be a testimony of God's love for the Lele people. Pray for the corrections being made on the primer that we hope to print soon.

**SPIRITUAL PROTECTION** Pray for God's daily strengthening and protection for our entire team through the work of his Holy Spirit. Pray for our safety and health.

**WELL TEAM** Please continue to pray for sufficient funding for us to purchase a used vehicle for the village wells and development team so that they can easily transport their equipment and crew to villages in need of clean water access.

PRAYER



Lele believers do an outreach worship service in a neighboring village. The good news about Jesus is being shared in unreached villages like this one more and more.

Did Jesus just call Peter Satan? Or was he looking right through Peter and the disciples directly into the face of Satan? Who was he rebuking here?

I think Jesus feeling the battle of being fully God and fully man here. As the Son of God, he was on a stern mission to redeem humankind but as the Son of Man I think his humanness wanted to go down the road that Peter was presenting...the easier road.

Could Jesus have chosen the other road? I think he could have. Not long after all of this, we find him in the garden asking God if there might be a way where he wouldn't have to "drink this cup".

But Jesus sees through Satan's efforts to tempt his human side. This is war, and this is one of those moments when you dig in and hold your ground. He sees well beyond the dirt and pain of this world and he sees God's ultimate loving plan to reconcile people to himself. So Jesus sets his mind on the things of God and continues toward Jerusalem and all the hard things that will come there.

## GIVING

We still need help raising funds to help the well crew purchase a used vehicle. Right now that fund has \$3,200 of the estimated \$8,000 we are trying raise. Your gift may be designated to the Village Wells and Sanitation fund if you want to help with this effort.

Your contributions and prayers keep these Bible translation, literacy and community development efforts moving forward. *Thank you!*

[www.PioneerBible.org/MarcAndTinaGebhard](http://www.PioneerBible.org/MarcAndTinaGebhard)



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*Our names should not appear on tax-deductible checks.*

*...And on the third day be raised.* Those were the other words Jesus was trying to tell Peter.

At that time, Peter and the disciples couldn't grasp that part of the story. They couldn't see beyond the material world of taxes, governments, food, survival, fatigue—of stone and blood and pain and death.

That's the world most of us live in too. We're just struggling to be OK...to find a bit of comfort, to stay away from danger. Why in the world would Jesus even want to go to Jerusalem where those leaders all want to kill him? Why not stay in the country, heal people and continue to teach people about loving their neighbor. Wasn't that enough?

But the Father calls him to something higher. God loves people too much to short-circuit the plan and leave people in their condition. And Jesus loves his Father and us too much to stop now. With resolution, he marches onward to be nailed to a cross to pay for the sin of humanity. Through that one act, Jesus shows us the extent of God's love.

As believers in Jesus, are we setting our minds on the things of God? Are we willing to look beyond the material world to see God's plan? Do we notice when Satan is trying to derail us from God's plans?

As we celebrate the Lord's death and resurrection this year, let's not forget this moment when Jesus had to reject the easy path and make the hard decision to set his mind on the things of God. Because he did that, we can be forgiven of sin and we can be part of God's kingdom! That's how much our heavenly Father loves us.

We want to share this good news with our neighbors in West Africa,. We want them to experience these words from the book of Matthew too. So we continue so set our minds on God's plan to share God's Word with the Lele people and their neighbors. Thank you for setting your mind on that plan too and marching on with us in this work!

