

FOLLOW ME

The Gospel of Matthew

WEEK 2 - DECLARATION AND DISCOURAGEMENT (PETER II) OVERVIEW

In this second part of our Peter trilogy, we will explore some of the highest and lowest moments of Peter's relationship with Jesus (until the crucifixion and resurrection, of course). First, Peter's declaration of Jesus' identity as the Messiah is met by Jesus with a declaration of his own: it is upon the "rock" of Peter's faith that Christ will build his Church. Second, however, this is followed almost immediately by Peter reprimanding Jesus for saying he would be killed. To this, Jesus says, "Get away from me, Satan!" Matthew's juxtaposition of these two moments is undoubtedly intentional. It gives us a glimpse at the need for us all to continuously set our own perspectives aside to be shaped by those of our savior's.

Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

Matthew 16:18

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 16:13-20.
 - a. Why does Jesus call himself the "Son of Man"?
 - b. What did the disciples say Jesus' identity was?
 - c. Why do you think Jesus gives Peter a different name? (see also John 1:42)
 - d. If you were Peter in this situation, what would be going through your mind?
 - e. Why does Jesus warn the disciples not to tell anyone that he is the Messiah?
2. Read Matthew 16:21-23.
 - a. Describe in your own words what Peter is saying to Jesus and what Jesus says to Peter in response.
 - b. Why did Jesus use such strong words to Peter? (see also Matthew 4:8-10)
3. What did Barry mean when he said "new life begins with self-sacrifice"? (Matthew 16:24-28)
4. Where do you see the theme of fulfillment in today's passage (Matthew 16:13-28)?
5. What are we meant to learn about following Jesus from this passage (Matthew as a Discipleship Manual)?
6. What does this passage say about the kingdom (Matthew as a Kingdom Manifesto)?
7. How does this passage challenge you?