

SITTING AT THE FEET OF JESUS

Jesus Continues to Reveal Himself to His Disciples Matthew 16:13–17:27

“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Matthew 16:16

Day 1: Read Matthew 16:13-20.

1. The crowds believed that Jesus was a prophet, but Peter identifies him as the Messiah, the long-awaited King of Israel. Why would this confession be radical and risky (consider what the ramifications might be politically, religiously and personally)? (Mt. 2:1-3, 16; Mt. 10:16-25; Mk. 14:61b-64)

2. While Jesus confirms Peter’s confession, why does he warn his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ? (Mt. 17:9; Mk. 1: 40-45; Jn. 6:14, 15)

3. Look again at verses 18 and 19. “...the most natural reading of the wordplay is to see that Jesus points to Peter as one who will play a foundational role in the establishment of his church.”
(Wilkins, Michael J. *The NIV Application Commentary: Matthew*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2004, p. 564)

How does Ephesians 2:19-22 help us understand this passage more fully?

4. How does this teaching encourage you as you think about the church with both its strengths and weaknesses?

Day 2: Read Matthew 16:13-28.

5. Why do you think Jesus chooses this time to explain to his disciples about his suffering and death (v. 21)?

6. Why does Peter rebuke Jesus? Why does Jesus react so strongly to Peter’s rebuke?

7. What does Peter come to understand later on that was unclear to him at this moment? (Acts 2:22-36)

8. Jesus makes a distinction between minding the “things of God” and minding the “things of men” (v. 23). Contrast these in the chart below. Focus on verses 21-28.

“Things of God”	“Things of Men”

9. What conviction or encouragement can you draw from this contrast?

Day 3: Read Matthew 17:1-13.

10. What dramatic change in Christ's appearance do Peter, James and John witness? What does this reveal about Jesus? (Heb. 1:1-3)

11. In the midst of Peter's "bright idea" to give equal honor to Jesus, Moses and Elijah by building them booths, he is interrupted by the voice of God the Father.

a. What does the Father say about the Son? (v. 5a)

b. What does the Father command? (v. 5b)

c. What is the disciples' response? (v. 6)

d. How does Jesus respond to the terror of his disciples? (v. 7)

Days 4 and 5: Read Matthew 17:14-27.

12. Jesus had given his disciples the authority to drive out evil spirits (10:1); why were they unable to drive out this demon?

13. Even though our faith is often "little" like the disciples' what encouragement does Jesus give? (v. 20)

14. This isn't the first time Jesus has talked about his suffering and death. (vv. 22,23)

Compare the disciples' response in v. 23b with their earlier responses. (vv.16:22; 17:13)

What reason for hope have they completely missed? (Mt. 16:21b; 1 Cor. 15:17-20a)

15. In what ways do you see Jesus being gracious in his interactions with Peter about the two-drachma tax?

16. Look back over this week's passage. Consider the four interactions with Peter in which Jesus reveals who he is and what he has come to do. How does this encourage you?