

E. "Self" better than "soul."

"Whoever wants to save his life as he knows it (and as the world defines it) will lose it, and whoever is willing to lose his life as he knows it *on account of me* will find *what it truly means to be a person*. So what if you gain the whole world and lose your very self? What are you willing to trade yourself for... the life Caesar offers you? ... the life the Pharisees and Sadducees offer you? That is no life at all! Follow me and I will show you what it means to be truly human!"

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- What do we learn in Matthew 15 about the teaching of the Pharisees that informs our understanding of the yeast in chapter 16?
- What might you draw from the fact that Jesus travels 25 miles to Caesarea Philippi to announce that He is going to Jerusalem? How might those two trips be connected?
- How does where Jesus asked the question inform our understanding of his answer?
- What does the name "church" (ekklesia) for the community of disciples teach us about what it means to be a disciple?
- What is one way every disciple is called to choose to suffer in Matthew's gospel?
- What was the process for Peter through which the Father revealed the identity of Jesus? How might this inform our discipling and/or evangelism?
- What does it mean to say that "the same church which is necessary to know who Jesus *is* can also be quite wrong about how He *works*"? How might we see that manifest in our own day?
- Where would Jesus choose to ask you the question, "But you, who do you say I am?" What rival to His kingship would you have to declare His supremacy over?

DISCIPLE 1.0 The Conflict of Kings and Kingdoms

Jerry Cisar — November 24, 2019

Text: Matthew 16

Introduction

I. Conflicts with the Powers of Jerusalem (16:1-12)

- A. The Serious and the Sophisticated (Bruner)
 - i. The Pharisees had begun to mask love-of-self as love of God in order excuse them from loving their neighbor.
 - ii. Jesus knows that greed and selfishness are not limited to only one theological ideology. Both ends of the theological spectrum are prone to this tendency.
- B. Disciples must discern between the teaching of Jesus (which strikes right at the heart of their greed and self-indulgence) and the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

II. Conflicts with the Powers of the World (16:13-20)

- A. Why does Jesus travel 25 miles to ask a question?
- B. Who do people say I am?
- C. "Who do you say I am?"
 - i. Jesus directs that question to his disciples who...
 - a) ... have followed his orders and gotten in the boat.
 - b) ... have not equivocated.
 - c) ... have seen his works, been fearful, tried to send the crowds and the distressed Canaanite woman away.
 - d) ... have heard his teaching, repeatedly.

ii. "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

v. Peter

D. What is the rock upon which the Church is built, and what does it have to do with Peter? What are the keys and to whom are they given?

- i. The revelation of the Divine-Kingship of Jesus!
- ii. Peter received this revelation from the Father in the process of following Jesus.
 - iii. "I will build my church,"
 - a) The "church" *ekklesia*, is the gathered people of God. It is not a place but a gathering.
 - b) "Church" is the name which Jesus now gives to his band of disciples.
- iv. The gates of Hades will not prevail against it (18).
 - a) "The threshold to the place of the dead!"
 - b) Jesus announces His assault on death's kingdom right at the place of its cathedrals.

III. Conflicts with the Powers of Death (16:21-27)

- A. What is Jesus saying?
 - i. Will the Pharisees and Sadducees win this conflict?
 - ii. Will Caesar defeat Him?
 - iii. The same church which is necessary to know who Jesus *is* can also be quite wrong about how He *works*.
 - a) If one embraces a Jesus apart from the church, they have embraced a Jesus other than the one revealed in the gospel!
 - b) Church leaders are warned not to teach Jesus as *a King* that came to give people happier lives.
- B. Jesus shows them how to live as a disciple by going to the cross!
 - C. This scene parallels the walking-on-water boat scene.
- D. "Get behind me Satan!"

Being the modern evangelical Americans that we are, we might think the cross was a one-of-a-kind way that God worked. But as our text makes clear, it must be the chosen path of every disciple.