

A Different Kingdom

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

1. Read Matthew 16:13–20. 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?
2. While Jesus confirms Peter’s confession, why does he warn his disciples not to tell anyone that he is the Christ (16:20)? (Matthew 17:9; John 6:14–15)
3. Read verses 18–19 with Ephesians 2:19–22 and try to explain what the promise is for us. Describe a time or situation when you saw God affirm this promise in your life.
4. Read Matthew 16:13–28. Why do you think Jesus chooses this time to explain to his disciples about his suffering and death? (verse 21)
5. Why does Peter rebuke Jesus? Why does Jesus react so strongly to Peter’s rebuke? What does Peter come to understand later on that was unclear to him at this point? (Acts 2:22–36)
6. Jesus makes a distinction between the “things of God” and the “things of men” (verse 23). Contrast these in the chart below, focusing on verses 21–28, and add your own reaction to the contrast in the far right column.

“Things of God”	“Things of Men”	Conviction/encouragement

7. Read Matthew 17:1–13. What do Peter, James, and John witness? What does this reveal about Jesus? (Hebrews 1:1–3) How do you think this affects them, especially coming after Matthew 16:22–28?

8. In the middle of explaining his idea, Peter is interrupted by the voice of God the Father.
 - a. What does the Father say about the Son? (verse 5a)

 - b. What does the Father command? (verse 5b)

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

 - d. How does Jesus respond to his disciples? (verse 7)

9. Read Matthew 17:14–27. Although Jesus had given his disciples the authority to drive out evil spirits (10:1), they unable to drive out this demon. Why?

10. Even though our faith is often “little” like the disciples', what encouragement does Jesus give? (verse 20)

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

12. 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?