**Matthew 16**

Our goal for this lesson is to identify and discuss the key content of this chapter. Key truths are revealed that are significant for knowing Jesus and for the life of the church.

16: 1-4

1. What does Jesus mean by His illustration of the appearance of the sky? How does it apply to the Pharisees request?
2. How does Matthew 12: 38-40 and 1 Corinthians 1: 22-23 help us understand the significance of Jesus’ words here? (Scripture interprets Scripture)

16: 5-12

1. People worry about earthly provision. What does Jesus say we should care about? Why?

16: 13-20

1. Matthew tells us about where these verses took place. What can we surmise from it’s location? How might this heighten our understanding of the text? (Geography)
2. What is the basic question that Jesus asks? Notice that this question has been the subject of conversation and speculation up to this point. Notice that this is behind the Pharisees’ and Sadducees’ “test” in verse 1. Now Jesus’ identity will be revealed.
3. How is it that Peter knows? How can anyone know? Notice how the first paragraph of the explanation to the 3rd Article of the Creed reflects what is revealed here in the text.
4. Notice who alone is building the church. Upon what does Jesus build His church?
5. What is the “key” work (pun intended) of the church according to Jesus’ words?
6. Why do you think Jesus charges the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ?

(Notice that the false teaching of the Pharisees bars people from the reign of heaven. The true confession given by Peter opens the door to the reign of heaven.

16: 21-23

1. Now that It has been revealed who Jesus is, what is revealed about what He is to do?
2. Why do you think Peter gets it wrong this time?
3. What does the severity of Jesus words teach us?

16: 24-28

1. Now that we know who Jesus is and what He is to do, what does Jesus teach us about those who follow Him?
2. What is the incentive for bearing our cross? (See Hebrews 12: 1-2)

Review Questions

1. Soon Jesus will travel to Jerusalem to accomplish the work He has been given to do. What has been revealed about Him up to this point?
2. Review the Office of the Keys from the catechism
3. Let’s say you’ve heard a prominent figure preach a sermon or it is necessary to evaluate a community of faith. Based on what we’ve learned from Jesus what would be the number one question to ask?
4. How would you respond to someone who said, “If I was with Jesus and saw the miracles, it would be easier to believe”?
5. What is something we discussed that has surfaced for you that you want to hold on to? Why do you think that is? What might God be leading you to in your relationship with Him?