

## **Christ & His Church Matthew 16**

### **I. Spiritual Blindness – 16:1-4**

1. Religious leaders demand a sign – 1  
It was a test not a sincere request  
They demand special proof of His claims
2. Of course there have been many signs  
They have assigned His power to Satan
3. He rebukes their hypocrisy – 2-3  
They can discern signs in the weather  
But they refuse to believe the miracles
4. One more ultimate sign will be given – 4  
Sign of Jonah – Resurrection after 3 days

### **II. Caution for Disciples – 16:5-12**

1. Jesus & disciples cross the sea – 5  
He departs from those who refuse to believe
2. Disciples warned of leaven of leaders - 6  
What they saw in religious leaders is a danger  
Like leaven it can work its way into them
3. Disciples misunderstood analogy - 7  
Thought He rebuked them for not bringing bread
4. Jesus challenged their faith – 8-11  
Don't you believe I can provide bread?
5. His concern was about unbelief – 11-12  
Don't let leader's skepticism creep in

### **III. The Real Issue – 16:13-16**

1. What do others believe about Jesus – 13  
This is the real issue on which Kingdom rests
2. Different views of Jesus – 14  
He is a great prophet  
Like John, like Elijah, Jeremiah, another prophet
3. Who do you say I am? – 15
4. Peter's confession – 16  
You are the Christ – Messiah  
You are the Son of the living God

### **IV. Promise of His Church – 17-20**

1. Basis of Peter's confession – 17  
Not based on human reason  
But on Divine revelation (faith in what God says)
2. This is the rock on which He builds – 18  
Peter means a little stone ("petros")  
"Petra" means bedrock  
The church is built on Jesus Christ – His church
3. Church is present form of His Kingdom  
Church ("ekklesia") means a "called out assembly"  
Called out & set apart as followers of Jesus
4. His Church shall prevail – 18  
Satan's kingdom shall attack but not prevail  
The church will suffer but not be overcome

5. The Church will be empowered – 19  
The Lord's authority & power is given to minister
6. It was not yet time to proclaim Him – 20  
His mission was not yet complete

### **V. Work of Redemption – 21-23**

1. Essential to building His Church – 21  
From this point on it is His focus  
His death & resurrection deals with sin  
It opens the way to reconciliation with God
2. Peter rebukes Jesus – 22  
He will not agree to such a possibility
3. Jesus links Peter with Satan – 23  
One who speaks from God now from Satan  
He is out of harmony with God's plan  
Power of the church is in work of Christ

### **VI. Glory follows Suffering – 24-28**

1. This is true for Jesus – 27-28  
There is no kingdom without Calvary
2. Jesus invites us to follow Him – 24-28  
Death to self leads to new life in Christ  
Those who cling to self will lose eternally  
True life is found only in following Christ  
The soul is eternal – things are temporal  
Eternal rewards for those who follow Him  
Some will even see His glory now