



UNION TOWN
BIBLE CHURCH

Sermon Guide
February 1: Matthew 16:13-28

What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?

Key Takeaway:

1. Confession requires divine revelation, not just speculation. We can't argue someone into the kingdom; we must share the gospel and let the Holy Spirit work.
2. Every believer has been given keys to the kingdom. The gospel was on its way to you so it could be on its way to someone else through you.
3. Following Jesus costs everything—and it's worth it. Denying ourselves and taking up our cross is the path to true life.
4. Authority comes through proper identification. We need to rightly identify Jesus to access His kingdom authority.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Jesus ask "Who do people say I am?" before asking "Who do YOU say I am?" What's the difference between these two questions, and why does it matter?
2. Jesus said that Peter's confession came from divine revelation, not speculation. How does this challenge our modern approach to sharing faith? What's the difference between convincing someone through arguments versus allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus?
3. Are you "locking" or "unlocking" the kingdom for people around you? What would change if you truly believed you had access to unlock heaven for others?
4. Peter went from being blessed by Jesus to being called "Satan" in just a few verses. What happened? How can our good intentions sometimes work against God's purposes?
5. Peter had good intentions but was ignorant of the big picture. Share a time when your good intentions got in the way of what God was trying to do in your life or someone else's.

6. Read Matthew 16:24-26 together. What does it practically look like to "deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus" in 2026?

7. Do you use the snooze button? Hitting snooze seems harmless but actually makes you more tired. What are some ways we "snooze" on Jesus? What areas of life are we pursuing that won't matter in eternity?

Practical Applications:

1. Identify one person in your life who needs to hear about Jesus (especially someone difficult or different from you). Pray daily for them by name, and look for one opportunity to share your story or the gospel with them.
2. Spend 30 minutes in honest reflection: Who is truly the authority in your life right now? Make a list of what you're "chasing" (career goals, possessions, comfort, approval, etc.), and then compare that list to what Scripture says should have authority in your life. Confess any misplaced priorities and ask God to help you realign
3. Evaluate your heart.
 1. Who do I say Jesus is? Not who does my family say, not who does my church say—who do I say He is based on my own relationship with Him?
 2. What does my faithfulness look like? If Jesus returned today and assessed my life, what would He find?