

Discuss the Main Idea:

Jesus either changes everything or He changes nothing - there is no in-between.

Discuss the Text: Matthew 16:13-27

who do people say He is?

-Read Matthew 16:13-14.

Up to this point people were getting Jesus wrong. Read Matthew 8:28-32 and Luke 4:31-35, 40-41. Who got it right?

If you did a survey today and asked this question what kinds of answers would you get?

who do you say He is?

-Read Matthew 16:15-20. Notice how this passage fits in the overall context of Matthew. Jesus is not teaching the crowd but His disciples and He is revealing to them who He is. He is no longer talking about the Kingdom coming and is now speaking about building His church (the kingdom will come but later).

Catholics believe that this section proves Peter was the first Pope.

-Read 1 Peter 5:1. Did Peter think of himself in this role?

-Read 1 Peter 2:4-8; Acts 4:11-12; Ephesians 2:19-22 and 1 Corinthians 3:10-11.

The foundation of the church is possibly referred to as Peter here but not in any sense as a Pope. At best it could be referring to a role shared by the apostles and the prophets. Likewise, Christ is repeatedly referred to as the rock and cornerstone.

Read the following article for some more info:

<http://www.gotquestions.org/Peter-first-pope.html>

- What about the keys of the kingdom?

-Read Acts 14:27. (referring to Acts 10)

- What about binding and loosing?

- Other disciples, and any group of two in the church, were given this same power in reference to church discipline.

-the bottom line is that even if Peter were referred to here as the rock to build the church upon, it would in no way indicate a Papacy.

-In verse 18 Peter and rock are a play on words where Peter is petros (masculine) and rock is petra (feminine). This is an obvious distinction in the text. It is my view that Peter's confession is the best view here. On top of this the church (mentioned here for the first time) means "the called out ones," and in the context of Jesus' possessive reference to it draws attention to Peter's confession.

- Read Ephesians 2:8-9 and Matthew 11:25-27. How do these verses reinforce this idea?

- Read the following article and discuss:

<http://www.proclaimanddefend.org/2014/01/08/upon-this-rock-a-study-of-matthew-161320/>

do you believe it?

-Read Matthew 16:21-23.

-What is so shocking about the timing of this verse compared to the last section?

-Read Luke 4:13. What are some lessons we might glean from this passage and the example of Peter?

how will you respond?

-Read Matthew 16:24-27.

- Are these verses for us too? Read Mark 8:34 for some context to shed light on this.
- Read Matthew 10:37-39. Jesus is asking for a radical reorientation to priorities here.
- How does this call for self denial relate to Matthew 11:28-30?

Self is the biggest burden we carry. we are constantly concerned with our self it consumes us and drives us...

yeah but in exchange He gives us a cross...

Read the following quote and discuss:

“Give me all of you!!! I don’t want so much of your time, so much of your talents and money, and so much of your work. I want YOU!!! ALL OF YOU!! I have not come to torment or frustrate the natural man or woman, but to KILL IT! No half measures will do. I don’t want to only prune a branch here and a branch there; rather I want the whole tree out! Hand it over to me, the whole outfit, all of your desires, all of your wants and wishes and dreams. Turn them ALL over to me, give yourself to me and I will make of you a new self---in my image. Give me yourself and in exchange I will give you Myself. My will, shall become your will. My heart, shall become your heart.”

— C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

- Read Galatians 2:20.

The Christian life is not about self improvement it is about self denial. Here is the bottom line and the perfect way to specifically apply this message to your life:

When you wake up tomorrow I want you to step over your dead, burdensome self and realize afresh that you are not the reason for your existence

Main Idea:

Jesus either changes everything or He changes nothing - there is no in-between.

Discuss the following articles:

<http://www.gotquestions.org/dying-to-self.html>

http://www.immanuel.org/biblical_counseling/bc/fm_dts.htm

discuss some ways to corporately, as a group, apply this message. Then, set a goal to carry out this specific application.