

“The Finished Sculpture” | Who Defines Jesus?

GETTING STARTED: If you could choose one difficult skill (like origami) to become instantly great at, what would you choose?

EXPLORE THE TOPIC

1. When was the last time you heard someone make a prediction that you thought would never happen? Who ended up being right?
2. Read Matthew 16:21. To what future events was Jesus alluding? How might the disciples have been feeling after hearing Jesus say these things?
3. Why might Peter have responded to Jesus the way he did in Matthew 16:22? What do Peter’s words tell us about his relationship with Jesus?
4. Peter was a close friend of Jesus. He felt that he could speak into every area of Jesus’s life. Do you have someone like that in your life? Are you that person for someone else? How do you walk the fine line of knowing when to speak up and when to be quiet on certain matters?
5. How did the disciples’ knee-jerk solution to Jesus’ kingship (march on Jerusalem, pick up supporters, fight a surprise battle) differ from what actually took place?
6. Read Matthew 16:23-24. What is Jesus communicating to Peter in these verses? Why does he mention “Satan?”
7. Have you ever met anyone with an “I have to” work ethic about their faith? What do you remember most? How did their actions encourage you? How

did their behaviour make you feel about your own level of involvement regarding faith?

8. Matthew 4:19 presents us with the first words that Jesus speaks to Peter in Matthew’s gospel. What do these words tell us about the best posture and place for a disciple of Jesus? What happens when this gets out of balance?
9. On a scale of 1 to 10, how well are you doing right now in regards to Jesus’ command to “come, follow me” in your own life (1 is wandering far from God, 10 is tailgating Jesus)? What factors contribute to your answer?
10. When have you seen or experienced the truth of Matthew 16:24-25? What does Jesus mean when he talks about someone that “takes up their cross” or “loses their life for me?”

APPLY THE TRUTH

On Sunday, April 29 we celebrated a baptism service. This public act is an opportunity to symbolically come out of the grave into new life just as Jesus did! Take time to pray for the individuals that were baptized. Identify any areas in your life that may be holding you back from a fully committed “I have to” outlook on following Jesus and sharing the good news!

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