

decide who is in and who is out, however God does use us to help people find the way inside. Jesus promises to all who believe and obey his words the kingdom doors are swung open.

We his church are the ones who have been divinely commissioned to share the Good News of the gospel and demonstrate the presence of the kingdom

Our mission is the same mission that Jesus gave his disciples as you now know me come follow me take up your cross and follow me. It may not be easy and we may have to suffer

It will mean letting our ego go (edging god out) and being prepared to give up any self-ambition and in doing so finding ones true self in the fellowship of Christ

As his church we are in Christ and he is us through his spirit

As a follower of Christ we are not to rely on our own understanding

We are to trust in his word and spirit in us to guide us and work through us.

We his church who are the redeemed people of God.

We have all have been called to be Christ's visible representatives and expression of his kingdom of God on earth.

Life Group Questions

1. What does cross bearing discipleship look like for us today—Discuss
2. Do we really know the real Jesus or is just a head knowledge.
3. How can we be living witnesses to Jesus— Discuss
4. What your understanding of the kingdom of God—Discuss
5. What's your understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit—Discuss
6. Do you believe that God uses us today to perform miracles through the power of the Holy Spirit.
7. Do you believe that God has given us the same authority as Jesus today



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Sunday 22nd July 2018

Sermon Notes

**Knowing Jesus and his divine
commission for our lives**

Mathew 16:13-28

life in all its fullness

John 10:10

Mathew 16:13-28

Knowing Jesus and his divine commission for our lives

1. Knowing Jesus

Over the past few months we have been slowly working through the Gospel of Mathew who provides us with some of the first detailed eye witness accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Each of the gospels provide us with slightly different account of Jesus's life and his ministry.

Mathews account specifically concentrates on the following key areas

- Old Testament prophecies that have been fulfilled in the life of Jesus
- Jesus as being the promised King
- The teachings of Jesus and His word becoming the new law of the church
- The confession of Jesus as being the Son of God in divine (opposed to merely messianic) terms , and an extension of the kingdom promises from the Jews to the Gentile nations in fulfilment of the covenant with Abraham.

Over the last few months we have heard Mathews detailed accounts of thousands and thousands witnesses including his disciples of Jesus ministry including many miracles:

Who do you say that I am?

Peter confessed that Jesus was the Son of God

Peter's great confession was a relief for Jesus

As finally someone had fully grasped who he was and that his work was safe.

Jesus knew that someone had recognized him for being the messiah, the Anointed one of God, the Son of the living God.

Napoleon famously gave his verdict on Jesus saying "I know men , he said , and that Jesus Christ is more than a man"

Peter's confession marks the turning point in the Gospel, Jesus began sharing in explicit detail of His upcoming death and resurrection

Peter was clear that Jesus was not any mere human he was also divine.

This passage teaches us that our discovery of Jesus must be a personal one

Our understanding of who Jesus is should never be second hand.

If Jesus was to ask us the same question this morning what would you answer?

Christianity does not consist of knowing about Jesus

It always consists of knowing Jesus personally

2. We are his church who Jesus has divinely commissioned

In verses 17-19 we are reminded of all those who have believed and confessed that Christ is Lord, the Son of God and that we are his Church whose foundations were laid by the apostles and prophets with Jesus being the cornerstone.

This word **ekklesia** refers to assembly of believers, the regularly summoned, the called out ones, who were his official representatives.

This passage reminds us that the church is not a building, nor a religious institution, nor an ethnic group, but a company of the committed covenant community where brothers and sisters share in fellowship with Christ.

Jesus announced His church in direct relation to Peter and his confession.

The church is built on confessing people and their faith in Christ.

His living witnesses are to confess that Jesus is Lord the Son of living God.

The keys represent the opportunity to bring people to the kingdom of Heaven by presenting them with message of the good news of Gospel found in the word of God.

We don't have the authority to open or close the kingdom of heaven for others nor can we

