

The Pastor's Bible Study

An interactive study of the Gospel of Matthew¹

Week 16 ~ Exploring Chapter 15:21 – 16:20

Personal Study Time:

(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

- Start a new section in your Matthew notebook and label it chapter 15:21-16:20
- Read 15:21 to 16:20 through twice before examining the following questions.
 - Look up Tyre and Sidon (15:21) on a map in the back of your Bible. How do you explain Jesus' treatment of the Canaanite woman in 15:22-28? Write a paragraph putting the worst possible construction on His words. Do the same for the best possible construction.
 - What do you see as the point to this episode?
- Re-read Matthew 16:1-12 and then answer the following questions in your notebook.
 - Matt. 16:1, 6, 11, 12 each set forth a strange combination of Jewish parties. You should already be familiar with the Pharisees and what they stand for, though if you are not, go to a Bible dictionary and refresh your mind on the topic.
 - Now, use a concordance to discover what you can about the Sadducees from the New Testament. List your conclusions in your notebook. Then go to a Bible dictionary to fill in your understanding.
 - Explain in a paragraph or so the significance of Matthew's coupling of these two Jewish parties.
- Re-Read Matthew 16:13-20 and then answer the following questions.
 - First, find Caesarea Philippi on a Bible map. Then Examine the phrase Son of Man (16:13) in a Bible dictionary to get some background for an essential understanding in this chapter.
 - What do you see as the significance of Peter's declaration in 16:16? In a sentence or two, describe what the church is built upon, according to 16; 16-18.
 - How does that understanding line up with such texts as 1 Corinthians 10:11; Ephesians 2:20; Acts 4:11; and 1 Peter 2:4-8?
 - Verse 19 talks about the "keys of the kingdom." Write out your impression of the implications of that gift as you study 16:19, 20.
 - Does Luke 11:52 have any connection to Matthew 16:19, 20? If so, what is it?

Application

- Who is Jesus to you? What impact has that reality had on your life? Have you been a faithful steward in your use of the keys? In what ways can I improve?

¹ Quoted and/or adapted from George R. Knight, *Matthew: The Gospel of the Kingdom*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press Pub. Association, 1994).