

“Closer Walk” Bible Study

Mining Matthew Chapter 16

Purpose: To share lives around the Scripture and through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit make happy and unexpected discoveries that change our lives and bring us closer in our walk with Jesus.

Getting us started

1. What memories do you have of baked goods hot out of the oven? Grandma's homemade rolls? Mom's cookies? Uncle Bob's cornbread?
2. If we polled two good friends from your early teen years, what adjective would they use to describe you?
3. If you could “gain the world,” where would place your summer and winter castles?

Getting us into Scripture

4. What do you think the Pharisees and Sadducees were actually hoping to see in the sky? How convincing would a sign have been for these religious leaders?
5. Why do you think Jesus used the word “adulterous” instead of “disloyal” or “unbelieving”? In light of verses 1-4, what is the “yeast” about which Jesus warns the disciples?
6. What was Jesus' point in the series of questions in verses 8-11?
7. Why are the disciples so slow in understanding Jesus?
8. Why did people think that Jesus was John the Baptist, Elijah or Jeremiah?
9. What was significant about Peter's confession?
10. How do you interpret the insight (v. 17), power (v. 18) and authority (v. 19) given to Peter? What are the “keys” of the kingdom? What do they “bind” and “loose”?
11. Why does Jesus change the direction of his teaching now?
12. What kind of Messiah was Peter expecting? Why was Jesus' response to Peter so strong (see 4:1-11)?
13. What activities and attitudes are at the heart of Christian discipleship? How do Christians forfeit their lives? What might tempt people to lose their life or exchange their soul?

Getting Scripture into us

14. How is the “yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees” working today?
15. When you aren't understanding Jesus, what helps you to keep on trying?
16. When and how did you come to recognize Jesus as your Messiah?
17. In what area does verse 24 strike home to you now?
18. How does verse 26 influence the way you make priorities?