
IGNATIUS
Catholic Study Bible

The Gospel of
MATTHEW



Commentary, Notes, & Study Questions

Revised Standard Version
Second Catholic Edition

Sunday Bible College

Chapter 16

Demand for a Sign
The Leaven of the
Pharisees and Sadducees
Peter's Confession
Prophecy of the Resurrection
The Cross and Self-denial

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Context for Chapter 16

In Chapter 14, of the Jews

Jesus hears the news of the death of John the Baptist, retreats to a private place but is followed by Jewish crowds of over 5,000. He feeds them miraculously and sends them walking home. Walking on water, Peter confesses Christ before the other Apostles.

In Chapter 15, of the Gentiles

As Jesus walks toward Judea, he heals many of his fellow Jews only to be confronted by their unbelief and legalistic stubbornness. So, Jesus retreats to a foreign place away from the Jews. There he declares faith to them, heals them of many diseases, and as he walks toward Jerusalem he feeds these gentile thousands in like manner to the way he fed the Jews thousands.

Context for Chapter 16

In Chapter 16, return to
the Lost Sheep of Israel

At the close of Chapter 15, Jesus sends the crowd away, gets in a boat and sails for Magdala, sometimes translated as Magadan as in most modern translations. Magdala was the home town of Mary Magdalene. Magdala also marked a return to Jewish territory. Jesus has returned from the Gentiles to his own people. After the amazing miracles of the feeding of 5000 Jews and 4000 Gentiles, how will his own people receive him?

Demand for a Sign

Matthew 16:1-4



Demand for a Sign

Matthew 16:1-4

Jesus' response shows that there is no lack of signs for them to interpret. There is no lack of evidence for his deity.

However, there remains one more sign which will be given. The sign of Jonah.

As Jonah was three days dead in the belly of the whale, but his grave spit him out and he saved Nineveh by God's grace and mercy, so Jesus will rise after three days dead in his tomb and save mankind.

The Leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees

Matthew 16:5-12



The Leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees

Matthew 16:5-12

The key to understanding what God is teaching us with this passage is found in verse 12, "Then they understood that Jesus did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

1. All believers are to be careful of who they hear and study. You are accountable for the teaching you pay heed.

2. The Apostolic ministry is primarily that of teaching truth and preaching the Gospel. (Care for the dying, the poor and the aged are the primary responsibilities of _____.)

The Confession of Peter

Matthew 16:13-20



The Confession of Peter

Matthew 16:13-20

1. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
2. "I tell you, you are Peter..." (see Word Study p. 47)
3. "On this rock I will build my Church."
4. "I give you the keys of the Kingdom
Whatever you bind on earth
shall be bound in heaven
Whatever you loose on earth
shall be loosed in heaven"

What is at stake?

- This passage, as a matter of history, has been one of the more important and more controversial for the life of the Church. Why? What is at stake?

What is the Rock?

- Is the Rock Peter?
- Is the Rock the Apostolic ministry which Jesus established?
- Is the Rock the confession of faith apart from Peter and the Apostles?

The Gospel Message

- Is the Gospel Message about faith (right belief) or is it about faithfulness (relationship)?
- Is the Gospel Message passed from age to age through fidelity to the content of the faith, through faithfulness to the ministry of Christ in the world (the Church), or is it passed to whomever the Apostles grant it?

What is the Church Christ plans to build?

- Is the Church the fellowship of the Apostles and everyone who joins their fellowship?
- Is it those people who hold the Faith in its correct formula as stated by Peter?
- Is The Church only those who submit to Peter's authority as leader?
- The the Church some combination of the above?

What are the powers which can not prevail against the Church?

- The power of sin to kill?
- The power of the Devil to mislead and to tempt?
- The fear of death which holds in bondage?
- Concupiscence?
- Demons?
- The Judgement and wrath of God?
- Disease, poverty, hunger, injustice and all other depravities of this world?

What are the Keys?

- Are the Key of the Kingdom a power granted to men by which men (or certain men) may forgive sins and heaven must also forgive?
- Or, are the keys an insight granted to men by which men (or certain men) are able to discern which men have been forgiven in Heaven and therefore may pronounce that forgiveness on earth?
- To whom did Jesus give the keys? Peter? All the Apostles? All Christians present at that moment? And do the keys continue today or was that gift a temporary aid to the founders of the Church?

Anglican Catholic Answers

- The Rock is the Faith that Jesus is the Christ, which always comes to us and matures in us as we are in relationship to Christ and to his Apostles.
- The Gospel Message is Jesus Christ himself (Who do you say that I am.)
- The Gospel message passes to each generation through the preaching of the Church's ministers.

Anglican Catholic Answers

- The Church is the fellowship of all those who through faith in Christ enter and remain faithful to the fellowship of the Apostles, of whom Peter was the leader and all the others held equal share.
- The powers which can not prevail against the Church are all of the above except one - God's judgment and wrath. ("There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.")

Anglican Catholic Answers

- The Keys of the Kingdom are the gift of God to the ministers of his Church whereby they are empowered to declare forgiveness of sins to penitent people, according with the principles of Heaven. Read absolution from Morning Prayer
- The Keys are given to all Bishops, who share or delegate those keys with some Presbyters (priests).

Jesus Foretells his Death and Resurrection

Matthew 16:21-23



Jesus Foretells his Death and Resurrection

Matthew 16:21-23

1. Note how Jesus is preparing them to see him as a Temple Sacrifice: at Jerusalem, by thee hands of the priests, etc.

2. When Peter rebukes him, Jesus calls him Satan.

Satan means "opposer". Peter was capable of making the greatest confessions of faith in one moment and the next moment he was capable of acting like Satan in perfect opposition to God's will.

Are we capable of the same?

The Cross and Self-denial

Matthew 16:24-28



The Cross and Self-denial

Matthew 16:24-28

The way of Christ Jesus is the way of self-denial, and self sacrifice. He will give himself freely for all.

He asks of his followers what he himself has modeled: self-giving self-denial

As a note in this month of Angels and Saints, see how Jesus will return - with his angels at his side to repay every man for what he has done.