

Matthew 16:13-20

The Church of the Messiah



Think about and discuss one or two questions from each section.

The text – Matthew 16:13-20

1. Read 16:13-20. Why did people at the time think that Jesus was a prophet like John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah etc.?
2. In 16:16, Peter affirms that Jesus is truly “the Messiah the Son of the living God”. Discuss what these titles mean. What has been revealed to Peter?
3. Why does Jesus change Simon’s name to “Peter”? What does the name Peter mean?
4. In 16:19, Jesus tells Peter that he will receive the “keys of the kingdom”. What do these keys unlock or open? Consider the words which follow – “whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven”. What authority is Jesus giving to Peter and the church?

The Scriptures – Matthew 16:13-20 as a portion of the Scriptures

5. Psalm 2 is one of the most powerful descriptions in the Hebrew Scriptures of the chosen and anointed one who is God’s King. Read Psalm 2 and discuss how it points forward to Jesus.
6. Read and discuss Matthew 18:15-20, a passage which has a lot in common with 16:13-20.
7. What is allowed or permitted in the life of the church? Read Paul’s words in Colossians 3:12-17.

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Matthew 16:13-20 as a portion of the Scriptures

8. What is the most important challenge for you from the words of Matthew 16:13-20?
9. How important is the church for you as you seek to live as a disciple of Christ?
10. How can we pray and support you in the light of these passages of Scripture?

