

Upon this Rock week 1
March 11, 2018

Matthew 16:13-28 (pg. 814-815)

We must clearly define Jesus in our own
_____.

Matthew 16:13 (NLT) When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

The high point for Peter: identified as a foundational
_____ by Jesus.

Matthew 16:18 (NLT) Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

The low point for Peter: identified as _____ by Jesus.

Matthew 16:23 (NLT) Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's."

What determined Peter's high and low points was his
_____...

...Therefore, we constantly have to _____ to keep the right point of view.

Matthew 16:24 (NLT) Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.

The decision to accept grace comes with lots of
_____.

How do I keep God's point of view as I journey?

Matthew 16:25-26 (NLT) If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?

1. I _____ to different things than I did before following Jesus.

1 Corinthians 13:11 (NLT, pg. 957) When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things.

Matthew 16:27 (NLT) For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father and will judge all people according to their deeds.

2. My motivations and actions stay focused on _____ instead of myself.

1 Samuel 16:7b (NLT, pg. 242) The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Final Thought: If you follow Jesus He doesn't guarantee to change your circumstances, but He will change your perspective. Are you _____ with God's point of view or your own?

Upon This Rock Week 1 Discussion Questions

Jesus asked the disciples what people were saying about Him. What do you hear people say about Jesus today? In your experience do people tend to define Jesus separately from how they view church? Why or why not? Why is it so important to clearly define in your mind and heart who Jesus is? Explain.

Have you ever experienced the irony of a blessing turning into a curse, or a curse turning into a blessing? Share the story. Read Isaiah 8:11-17. At first glance this passage seems to contradict itself, does it really? How could God “keep you safe” and be a “trap and snare” at the same time? Explain. What implications does this have in your faith journey?

“Every decision makes ripples.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? How can living with God’s point of view help you to see the ripples before you make a decision? How much of a fight is it for you to keep God’s point of view? How have you won that fight in the past?

Read Jeremiah 17:5-10. What concepts are present in this passage and the interaction between Jesus and Peter in Matthew 16? How can “deep roots” help you through tough circumstances? What would you say to someone who is upset with God because their circumstances haven’t changed after accepting Him as their savior?