



**Text:** Matthew 16

**Topic:** The Church

**Big Idea of the Message:** The church is the community of people who know Jesus intimately, proclaim Jesus confidently, and obey Jesus sacrificially.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. How does self-righteousness blind us to Christ?
3. How is self-denial different from works-righteousness?
4. Define the church.
5. Explain why Christ's identity is foundational for the church.
6. How do you think your unbelieving neighbors and coworkers would answer Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?" How could you work a similar question into an evangelistic conversation?
7. What does Jesus' rebuke to Peter in verse 23 say about the place of the cross in God's plan?
8. What does it mean for someone to "take up his cross" (v. 24)?