Growth Group Sermon Questions:

Feb. 21st, 2021

**Behold!**

**The Kingdom of Heaven**

**Matthew 16**

**Matthew 16 is a swing passage where Jesus moves from establishing his kingdom through his words and deeds into revealing the path to full discipleship. This path includes a declaration, a revelation and a dedication. Peter is an example for us in Matthew 16 of these 3 things.**

1. Peter is an example for us of someone who rightly answers the “ultimate question” which Jesus poses to his disciples in v. 15. He declares with his mouth that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the one true God. Discuss why it is so important for people to declare that Jesus is Messiah. Consider memorizing Romans 10:9 this week as a growth group.
2. In verse 17 Jesus says that Peter’s declaration has been revealed to him by the Father. The posture of Peter’s heart has been soft to the truth and eager for this revelation. Discuss how Peter is such a good example to us of what it means to be open to the Father revealing the Son. How might we follow this good example?
3. In the sermon notes video we looked at the challenging passages in verses 18-23. Take some time to discuss one (or more) of the following:
   1. Jesus’ reciprocal declaration of Peter as the Rock.
   2. Jesus as the cornerstone.
   3. Peter’s role as the leader who would help establish the church among the gentiles.
   4. Peter only seeing Jesus’ ministry from a human point of view.
   5. The gates of Hades as a metaphor for death and how the church will never be swallowed up by this.
4. There are 3 dedications mention in verse 24: deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus. What do you think these dedications look like today for disciples of Jesus Christ?