



WEEK 1 | NICK CARNES

All Scripture is in the Christian Standard Bible (CSB), unless noted differently.

Matthew 16:13-16 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”¹⁵ “But you,” he asked them, “who do you say that I am?”¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Matthew 16:17 Jesus responded, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in heaven.

Matthew 16:20 Then he gave the disciples orders to tell no one that he was the Messiah.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek.

Matthew 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

Luke 6:46-48 “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and don’t do the things I say?⁴⁷ I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them:⁴⁸ He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock.

Matthew 16:19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will have been loosed in heaven.”

Ephesians 2:19-20 So, then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God’s household,²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

Matthew 16:21-23 From then on Jesus began to point out to his disciples that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and scribes, be killed, and be raised the third day. ²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, “Oh no, Lord! This will never happen to you!” ²³ Jesus turned and told Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me because you’re not thinking about God’s concerns but human concerns.”

Matthew 16:24-28 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will find it. ²⁶ For what will it benefit someone if he gains the whole world yet loses his life? Or what will anyone give in exchange for his life? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will reward each according to what he has done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

GO DEEPER

This week, read the Scriptures from Sunday and answer these questions:

1. What did you learn from Sunday’s sermon? Did you gain any new insights?
2. Jesus asked, “Who do you say that I am?” How would you answer that today, and what evidence in your life supports that answer? Where do your beliefs about Jesus feel most genuine and where do they feel inherited or assumed?
3. Have you ever had a season where your circumstances caused you to question what you believed about Jesus? How did you respond in that moment, did it push you toward Jesus or away from Him?
4. The sermon emphasized that knowing about Jesus isn’t the same as believing in Him. What’s the difference, and how have you seen that play out in your own life or others’? What are signs someone has true, revealed faith rather than just information?
5. Peter correctly identified Jesus as Messiah, but then immediately rebuked Him. Where are you tempted to reshape Jesus to fit your preferences or expectations? What are some “human concerns” that can distort how we think about Jesus today?
6. Jesus says following Him requires denying yourself and taking up your cross. What is something in your life right now that’s difficult to surrender to Him? What would it practically look like to take a step of obedience in that area?