



fellowship church

Sermon Discussion Guide

March 29, 2026 - Pastor Scott Allen

Get Behind Me, Jesus! (Matthew 16:21-23)

Summary:

As the crowd shouts “Hosanna” in the streets, their expectation of salvation contradicts Jesus’ plan for salvation.

1. **Mission:** While the crowd expected a mighty earthly king, Jesus’ mission from Matthew 16:21 was to go to Jerusalem, suffer, be killed and be raised from the dead.
2. **Misconception:** Peter’s rebuke of Jesus’ plan reveals the misconception concerning the Messiah shared by Peter and the crowd. The issue was not a lack of understanding but an incorrect mindset.
3. **Mindset:** Jesus’ response demonstrates Peter’s need to substitute his mind with God’s mind.

Application:

1. **Adjust your mindset:** Everyday our minds reset to their default sinfulness, we must recalibrate to the mind of Christ.
2. **Submit your plans:** Peter was short sighted. We too can have ideas that seem great, but God knows best therefore, we must submit our plans to His will.
3. **Take up your cross:** Follow Jesus rather than telling Jesus to follow you.

Discussion Starter

- What areas of life do you experience the urge to say “Get behind me, Jesus”? (ex: work, finances, relationships, health, future)
-

Reflection Questions

- In the sermon, Scott contrasted a misunderstanding (lack of info) with a misconception (fundamentally flawed view). Where might you have a misconception about God, especially as you consider the previous question? What assumptions about God might need to be challenged and reshaped by Scripture?
 - How is Jesus' mission different from what the crowds and Peter expected? How might our own expectations of Jesus still resemble theirs?
 - Jesus says that Peter is not setting his mind "on the things of God, but on the things of man." (Matt 16:23) Read Colossians 3:1-4. What does it look like to set your minds on things above?
-

Application Questions

- Vision Question: *We are a family of disciples on mission.* Discuss how this passage challenges our view of what it means to be a family of disciples on mission.
- (Personal implications) **Step 1. Adjust your mindset.**
Read Colossians 3:1-3, Romans 12:2, and Philippians 4:6-9. How do these passages challenge, correct or deepen the way we should deal with the struggles of our mind? How can we practically be more dependent on Christ to correct our thinking?
- (Communal implications) **Step 2. Submit your plans.**
How can good, godly desires (like marriage, children, career, or ministry goals) slowly turn into demands we place on God instead of things we hold with open hands?

As a community, what can we do to help protect one another from this, and how can we lovingly and gently speak up when we see a brother or sister slipping into this trap?

- (Missional implications) **Step 3. Take up your cross.**
Read Matthew 16:24-28.
Spend some time in prayer, asking God to prepare your hearts to hear the next sermon in our Matthew series.

This week's guide written by: Camilo Rebolledo

Tips for Group Leaders

- DO ask open-ended questions. DON'T ask questions where a short "right" answer ends the discussion.
- DO encourage mutual participation by every group member. DON'T feel the need to respond or weigh in after every contribution. Avoid monologuing. As the leader, your goal is to facilitate mutual discussion between all group members (Eph 4:15–16).
- DO ask follow-up questions: "What do you mean by that?" "Tell me more!" "Has anyone else experienced something similar (or different)?"
- DO feel free to pick and choose questions that are a good fit for your group. DON'T feel the need to get through every question, and don't worry if you spend most of your time on a few questions that generate a lot of good discussion.
- DO keep the main thing the main thing. Steer your conversation toward the main theme of the sermon and the biblical text. DON'T get sidetracked on less important matters, theological debates, etc. A rabbit trail might sometimes be worth pursuing—*if* group members are wrestling deeply with the implications of biblical truth for their lives. Otherwise, steer conversation back to the main topic.
- DO get into the text. It could be helpful to read over the passage together or ask questions directly related to the text. Help group members engage the text for themselves and respond to what they see there.
- DO revisit important moments from the sermon—a memorable story, an impactful quote, a convicting point of application. "Remember when pastor X talked about Y? What impression did that make on you?"
- DO allow space for reflection, silence, and thoughtful answers. DON'T feel that you need to jump in or ask a new question just because the group has been quiet for a few seconds. A good rule of thumb is to wait until the silence gets awkward, then count silently to ten before jumping in.
- DO bring discussions home to practical, concrete everyday life. DON'T let discussion and application stay in the abstract realm. Steer discussion toward *what does responding to this sermon look like for me?* If comments are vague or general, ask "what would that look like, practically?"