

Lesson #17- Matthew Chapter 16 Questions for Discussion:

1. Did Jesus grant the request of the Pharisees and Sadducees and how does His answer impact the world today?
2. The disciples are confused by Jesus' command to "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees." What did Jesus finally have to explain to the disciples, and what might we need to take heed and beware of today?

3. Verses 13-20 are about identity.
 - a. Why do you think Jesus doesn't plainly ask "who do people think am I", but asks "Whom do men say that I ***the Son of man*** am?"
 - b. How do the disciples report that the world perceives Jesus? How does our world perceive Jesus?
 - c. How does Peter personally respond to the question of Jesus' identity and what does Jesus have to say about that? Discuss why this was such a big deal and why it is still the big deal of our age.

4. Is the church built on Peter? Explain your answer. What about “keys of the kingdom of heaven” and binding and loosing?

5. In verse 20 Jesus begins a period of focused training with His disciples, starting with His imminent death, burial, and resurrection. Peter immediately fires back that , “No way, that can’t be what’s going to happen!” (paraphrase). Discuss Jesus’ response. Why do you think it was so harsh, after all, Peter was just expressing His love and loyalty? Use the remainder of the chapter (24-28) to support your answers.