

**A Bible Study on the Gospel of Matthew
November 17, 7:00 p.m. in Room 6 and Zoom**

WEEK TEN – “Not Enough Food, Too Much Water” (Matthew 16:13-28)

Moving alone in Matthew’s “What does it mean to follow the Messiah” section, we’ll learn what the disciples, particularly Peter, learn about confession. Then Jesus tells his disciples about the commitments needed to follow him.

1. What do you think Jesus means when he refers to himself as the “Son of Man.”
2. When Jesus asks his disciples “Who do people say the Son of Man is,” what do their answers tell you about how people perceived Jesus?
3. Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Son of the Living God.” How is this different than Jesus’ self-reference “Son of Man?” How did Peter come to this conclusion?
4. What do you think Jesus meant when he said to Peter, “on this rock I will build my church?” What do you suppose the difference between the vision of the church that Jesus spoke of and the church we’re a part of today?
5. What does verse 9 mean? What will these keys unlock? What does, “whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever is loose on earth will be loosed in heaven” mean?
6. Why was Jesus so stern when he told his disciples not to tell anyone else he was the Messiah?
7. Why does Peter fail so badly in 16:21-28 to understand Jesus?
8. What are the implications of Jesus’ commission to Peter for disciples today?
9. How does this passage shape the mission of the Church (big “c”) and our church (little “c”)?
10. How do you understand the image of “taking up” or “bearing one’s cross?” What does this mean for disciples and the contemporary Church?
11. In what ways can we sustain one another as we walk the way of the cross?