

PETER



3. Further Lessons on Discipleship

Introduction

When Jesus called Peter to be his disciple he acknowledged him as Lord, and left all to follow him. However Peter still had much to learn about his new Master and what it really meant to be a disciple. Over the next year Peter's understanding grew and now he confesses that Jesus is indeed the Son of God. Along with a deeper understanding of who Jesus is must come a greater commitment to him as Lord.

Bible Reading: Matthew 16 and 17

A. Learning more about the Master

1. Jesus : The Messiah and Son of God Matthew 16:13-17

- ❖ What two questions did Jesus ask his disciples? V13, 15
- ❖ How did the disciples answer the first question? V14



How would people answer that question today? Discuss.

- ❖ How did Peter answer the second question, and how did he come to that understanding? V16-17
- ❖ Many people know who Jesus is intellectually. What difference will it make when a person has a revelation from the Holy Spirit of who Jesus is?

2. Jesus : The Son of God Matthew 17:1-8

Peter had come to a realization of who Jesus was. Six days later God shows him, in a wonderful way, that his confession that Jesus is the Son of God is true. This is called 'the Transfiguration'.

- ❖ Who witnessed the Transfiguration? V1
- ❖ Describe what happened in your own words.



How did the Transfiguration confirm to Peter that his confession in Matthew 16:16 was true?

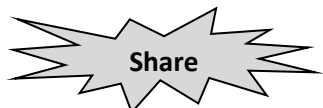
- ❖ What was wrong with Peter's suggestion to build shelters for Jesus, Moses and Elijah? V4



Having realized Jesus was the Messiah and Son of God, Jesus now begins to teach more about himself – something that is totally new to their thinking.

3. Jesus : The Savior who must suffer Matthew 16:21-23

- ❖ What new truth does Jesus now begin to teach them? What 4 specific things does he mention? V21
- ❖ How does Peter react to this teaching? Why do you think he said this? V22
- ❖ Jesus had commended Peter, but now he rebukes him. What was wrong with Peter's reaction? V23



What can you learn from Peter's experience?

B. Learning more about Discipleship Matthew 16:24-27

As Peter's understanding of who Jesus was had deepened, it was time for him to also understand more about the true meaning of discipleship. Jesus began to speak about his coming suffering and death. To be a disciple meant to follow in his footsteps.

- ❖ What are the conditions of discipleship given in verses 24 and 25? What does this really mean?
- ❖ If a person chooses not to follow Christ what could he gain, but what will he lose? V25-26
- ❖ Why is it worth following Christ? V25, 27

Conclusion

Just as Peter had been called to become a disciple, so have we. The one we are following is not an ordinary man – he is the Messiah, the Son of God and our Savior. To follow him means to 'take up the cross', it means to die to self and make him Lord of our life. But it is infinitely worthwhile! Never be afraid to surrender to him, as there is no one who loves you more than he does.