



Unlikely King

1-Sept: The Kingdom is Eternal
8th -9th grade

Series Summary: The People in Jesus time had all of these expectation of who the messiah would be and what kind of kingdom he should usher in. But He was not the Messiah they had in mind. Instead, Jesus and his Kingdom was better and here is why.

Big Idea/Question: They wanted an earthly kingdom. Instead, Jesus ushered in an eternal kingdom.

Get Them Talking: If someone asked, "Who is Jesus?", what would you say? Bonus points if you only use a few words.

Matthew 16:13-20 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" **14** They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." **15** "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" **16** Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Leader Note: It is so important that our students understand that the question in vs 15 (who do you say Jesus is) matters so much more than the question in vs 13 (who do people say Jesus is). Because ultimately no one can make that decision for us. Tonight would be a great night to ask students, who do not understand the Gospel 100%, that question directly (possibly after group). "Who do you believe Jesus is?" "Is he your Savior?"

What did Peter mean when he answered Jesus' question with "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God"?

(8-12th) Why does it matter that Jesus was the Son of the living God? In other words, why does it matter that Jesus was God?

Leader Note: Only God (Father, Son & Holy Spirit) is perfect, righteous, and sinless. Therefore, only Jesus could pay the penalty for our sins as a perfect, righteous, and sinless sacrifice on the cross.

Matthew 16:17-20 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. **18** And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. **19** I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." **20** Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Leader Note (vs 19): In other words, what you do here on earth, in this life, will have an eternal impact.

Leader Note: (vs 20): Why not tell everybody? Because as part of God's plan He did not want the apostles and other followers of Jesus to go out with the Gospel message until after the resurrection when the Gospel message had been fulfilled (Matt 28:18-20).

VIDEO TEACHING

From mountain top to crashing back down: Peter had just given the greatest answer to the greatest question. But as we keep on reading we realize that they did not quite understand fully what kind of Messiah Jesus would be.

Matt 16:21-22 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. **22** Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

The scandal of a suffering Savior: This was not what Peter had in mind. How dare Jesus say he would suffer and die. Unfortunately, he did not understand that Jesus had to die for our sins.

Matt 16:23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

Why so harsh? Because it was 100% essential that they understand who Jesus was and what kind of Kingdom he was ushering in. Jesus was a suffering savior that would usher in an eternal kingdom.

Transition - But what do we do with this now? That is what we are talking about next.

Matt 16:24-27 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. **25** For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. **26** What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? **27** For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

Vs 24 - What did Jesus mean when he said we must pick up our cross daily and follow Him? What does it look like to do that?

Vs 26 - What Jesus was communicating to us in vs 26 is that all of our stuff, accomplishments and everything else, does not compare to Him. Yet we often act as if they do compare. We can easily worship our stuff, accomplishments, and many other good things as if they were Jesus. What are some examples of this that you have seen (including from your own life)?

For Further Study: Read the Parable of the Ten Virgins in Matt 25:1-34 for further discussion on how we are to live with urgency and an eternal mindset.