

The Gospel of Matthew #103**THE CONFESSION AND THE CROSS****Matthew 16**

Divide Gospel of Matthew into two halves, to answer 2 great Qs:

- I. **WHO** is Jesus? 1:1 to 16:20
 Q of His **Person**: is He the Messiah or not? 1:1, 18
- II. **WHAT** did He come to do? 16:21 to 28:20
 Q of His **Work**: is He the Savior or not? 1:21

Climax here of first part through 3 contrasts:

1. Unbelief of Pharisees and confession of Peter
2. Revelation of Jesus and confusion of Peter
3. Commitment required by Jesus, and its reward, and the loss of one who refuses

I. The Great **C** _____ (16:1-20)

Stubborn refusal of both Sadducees & Pharisees to believe
 Disciples are fairly obtuse also!

- 16:13 the Big Question
 16:14 various contemporary answers
 16:15 the Q that comes to every person here
 16:16 Peter's God-given answer
 16:17-20 consequences of that answer are astounding

II. The Great **C** _____ (16:21-23)

From that time He begins to teach about His suffering, death, and resurrection!

Peter hears only defeat and death. No place for a cross.

Jesus hears from His beloved disciple what Satan whispers to Him every day. Hence the sharp reply.

Do you hear him whisper also to you: you should not have to bear a cross before a crown?

III. The Great **C** _____

We ALL must bear a **cross** before we receive a **crown**

16:24 is the heart of it. The rest is commentary.

16:24 has 3 parts:

1. Deny yourself
2. Take up *your* cross (very personal)
3. Follow Jesus (not just believe on Him for justification)

This is a daily dying to my agenda, my demands, my self-centeredness.

To be trusting Him each day this year as I ask,
 "What do YOU want me to do in this situation? With my time? With my money?"

This barely makes sense to 21st century Americans. Why?

16:25 - 26 the **warning** if you refuse

16:27 the great **Consequence**
 (don't miss the **reward** part)

16:28 the great foretaste for the 3, which impels you forward to the Transfiguration in ch 17.

(The Gospel will end in ch 28 with IV. The Great **C** _____)

Can you identify with Peter in each of the 3 parts?

- Given faith to recognize Who Jesus is
- Messing up when the cross is out of focus
- Following Him wherever
- Occasionally having a taste of the glory to come