

## SMALL GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Watch the video summary of the **July 20, 2014 Sermon** (3.5 minutes), "The question of identification."  
Please read the sermon passage (Matthew 16:13-23) together out loud.

### Small Group Questions (Matthew 16:13-23)

#### Sermon Outline:

AS A RESULT OF CHRIST'S QUESTION . . .

1. **His identity is revealed** (13-17).
  - a. Jesus moves from general ("Who do people say that I am?") to specific ("Who do you say that I am?"). So should we.
  - b. Peter shows that God has revealed to him that Jesus is the one-and-only Messiah.
2. **The church of Christ is promised** (18-20).
  - a. Peter is the first to make the confession on which Christ will build his church.
  - b. The church will continually be built until Christ returns.
  - c. People in every generation predict the demise of the church. Christ's promise to build it still stands. Whom do you believe?
3. **The mission of Christ is explained** (21-23).
  - a. Christ specifically prophesies about his betrayers and his third-day resurrection.
  - b. This situation (identification leading to temptation to avoid the cross) mirrors Jesus' experience when Satan tempted him after his baptism (Matthew 3:13-4:11).

#### Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Christianity is not a moralistic religion, trying to remain prominent in major world religions, it is a faith in the one-and-only Son of God. This, by definition, makes Christianity exclusive (only Jesus can save). How do you interact with friends who think that Christianity is arrogant because it requires that we believe *only* Jesus?
2. Based on #1, above: How do you interact with friends who seem to think that Christianity is a "moralistic religion"? Do you think it is possible to be received in fellowship at a Christian church without ever having received Christ as Lord and Savior?
3. Based on #1, above: Describe the moment in your life when you realized that Jesus is the only way to be reconciled to God the Father.
4. Based on #2, above: Christ promised to keep building his church until his return. How does this promise encourage your heart in the midst of a dark world?
5. Based on #3, above: Jesus knew that his mission was to die on the cross. Does that ever produce "shame" or timidity in your evangelism? How does Romans 1:16 challenge you?