

- Last week we looked at Jesus' reaction to the religious leaders of the day. . (Matthew 16:1-12; Mark 8:10-26) We noticed two large miracles Jesus performed where he took a little food used it to feed 5,000 men and then 4,000 men later – in both cases the leftovers were a lot more food than Jesus started with in the first place. (Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:33-44, Luke 9:11-17) (Matthew 15:29-39, Mark 8:1-9) We also looked at how Christ sent out the apostles with power and orders to preach and heal in his name; and at how they reassembled to report details of the death of John the Baptist. (Matthew 10:1,10:7-8, Mark 6:7, Luke 9:1-2) Finally we looked at how Christ walked on the water and Peter did also briefly. (Matthew 14:22-36, Mark 6:45mT-56)
- Today we are going to examine Christ's relationship with the apostles further, talk about his prophecies, and look at a couple of additional miracles he performed.
- Christ asks his disciples who men say he is. They tell him that some people are saying he is the prophet Elijah, some say the prophet Jeremiah, some say he is John the Baptist. Christ asks who they think he is and Peter confesses his faith in Christ as the Son of God. Christ blesses Peter and promises that "on this rock I will build my church" and will give Peter the keys to the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 16:13-20, Mark 8:27-30, Luke 9:18-21)
- This passage has been the origin of a lot of error. The Catholic Church uses this passage to believe the Peter was the first pope, because they read this as Jesus saying he would build His church based on Peter, when the context of the passage indicates Christ would build His church on Peter's confession. Therefore we make the same confession before we commit to Christ in baptism. Also, many think the keys to the kingdom are literal keys, when Jesus is clearly just talking about communicating the way to get to heaven.
- Next, Christ prophesies about His own death and resurrection. He tells his disciples that if they want to follow him they must be willing to leave even family behind. (Matthew 16:21-28, Mark 8:31-9:1, Luke 9:22-27)
- Next, Christ takes Peter, Andrew, James and his brother James up into a mountain. They fall asleep and when they wake up Christ is standing with Moses and Elijah and they are all shining very brightly. A voice (presumably God's) says something like what He said at Christ's baptism "This is my beloved son, listen to him." This is commonly referred to as the Transfiguration. Those who witness this want to build temples for all three but Christ vetoes the idea. (Matthew 17:1-3, Mark 9:2-13, Luke 9:28-36)
- Next Christ is brought a child (from the description it sounds like he might have had epilepsy or something similar) by the child's father. The child's father has tried everything, including having Christ's apostles heal him. This is a last resort. Jesus asks the man if he believes that Christ can do it and the man responds, "Lord I believe, help thou my unbelief." Christ, impressed with his faith, heals the boy, and tells his apostles that this kind of healing could only come with prayer. (Matthew 17:14-20, Mark 9:14-29, Luke 9:37-43)

- Jesus and the Apostles go back to Galilee. The apostles tell Christ that the tax is due so he instructs Peter to go catch fish and look in the first fish's mouth where he will find a coin he can use to pay the tax. (Matthew 17:23-27, Mark 9:30-37, Luke 9:44-45)
- You will often see fish used as a symbol of Christianity – this is the reason.
- The apostles are fighting about who will be greatest in heaven. Christ says they have it all wrong, that things will be very bad for them if their vain and selfish ambition becomes a role model for others; rather He says they should adopt a position of innocence like a little child who has no selfish ambition. (Matthew 18:1-14, Mark 9:33-50, Luke 9:46-50)
- Christ gives instructions for resolving disputes in the church and for forgiveness. He says to forgive infinitely and to try to be reconciled directly and then escalate to wider audiences within the church. On the topic of forgiveness Peter asks if he should forgive someone 7 times and Christ says “yes, even 70 times 7.” (Matthew 18:1-35)
- Christ and his apostles were on the way to Jerusalem. Christ sends messenger ahead and the Samaritans say they won't host his group. The apostles want to send down fire to destroy the whole region but Christ vetoes the idea, saying He is there to save lives not take them. (Luke 9:51-56)
- Jesus is still attracting followers even though he has a nomadic lifestyle. Two different people say they will follow Him, but one wants to go home and bury a father, and the other wants to go home to say “goodbye” to his people first. Christ says that no one who chooses this lifestyle would ever look back and do things like that. (Luke 9:57-62)
- Jesus sends out seventy more followers two by two and they have great results. Christ says He knew this was happening and gives glory to God for these souls. (Luke 10:1-24)

1. Who do men think Jesus is?
2. On what did Jesus promise to build His church?
3. What do we do before being baptized?
4. What does Christ say His followers must be willing to leave if necessary?
5. What happens at Christ's transfiguration?
6. What did the father of the epileptic boy say when Jesus asked him He believed?
7. Why did Christ say to his apostles that they couldn't heal the boy?
8. Where did Christ and the apostles go next?
9. How did Christ tell Peter to pay the tax?
10. What does Christ tell the apostles when He finds out they are arguing about who will be the greatest in heaven?
11. What instructions does Christ give for resolving disputes in the Church?
12. How many times does Christ tell Peter he should forgive? What did He mean by that?
13. What region will not allow Christ group? What does his apostles recommend? How does Jesus answer them?
14. What were two reasons given to Christ why people wanted to postpone following Him?
15. How many people does Christ send out to preach and heal? What are their results?