

EFCDP SERMON NOTES • February 18, 2024

Series: *Help My Unbelief # 2*

“When You Think God Failed You” • Matthew 16:13-23

The Big Idea: *When you think God failed you—it just looks that way.*

1. Everyone makes a decision about Jesus. Vv. 13-16

2. The decision you make about Jesus is the most important decision of your life. Vv. 17-20

3. Following Jesus is a constant spiritual battle. Vv. 21-23

Digging Deeper

A guide for personal and small group study for the week of February 18, 2023.



→ Was any part of the message unclear? Which aspect of the message do you think will be the most challenging to apply to your own life?

→ Do you agree with the “big idea” of this passage? Why or why not?

1. Describe a time when you had certain expectations of someone or some company, and then they failed to meet those expectations? Did you conclude your expectations were unreasonable or realistic?

2. What unrealistic expectations do you think most married people have when they get married? What do you think typically happens when reality sets in?

→ What role do you think unrealistic expectations play in the failure of marriages that end in divorce?

3. Have you encountered people who had unrealistic expectations of you (work, friends, family, etc.)? How did that conflict get resolved?

4. What expectations have you had of God that you since learned were not realistic (biblically accurate)?

5. How does our view of God impact our experiences with doubt?

6. Do you think God wants to change our expectations of Him? If so, how and why?

7. After Acts 12, when Paul takes prominent leadership in the early church, why do you think we don't read more about Peter?

8. The Roman Catholic church teaches the Pope is infallible. If Peter was the first pope, as they claim how do these passages impact their teaching about Peter?

- Acts 11:1-8

- Galatians 2:11-14

9. Compare how Jesus responded to Peter's rebuke (Matt. 16:23) to Matthew 4:8-9. Are they the same or different?

10. How did Jesus fulfill the following OT prophecies?

- 2 Samuel 7:14

- Psalm 2:7

11. Jesus' statements about Peter in Matthew 16:17-19 are heavily debated. How do the following passages help explain how Peter understood Jesus' words?

- Acts 4:8-12

- 1 Peter 2:4-8

→ What impact should Peter's understanding of Jesus' words in Matt. 16:17-19 have on our interpretation of them?

12. What is the significance of Peter referring to the following passages in 1 Peter 2:4-8?

- Isaiah 28:16
- Psalm 118:22
- Isaiah 8:14

13. Read Matthew 18:15-20. Do you see any parallels between this passage and Matthew 16:19?

14. Why do you think Jesus instructed the disciples not to reveal His Messianic identity in Matthew 16:20?

15. How does Peter's rebuke of Jesus reveal about his expectations of Jesus' mission?

16. If following Jesus is a constant spiritual battle, how do Jesus' words in Matthew 16:24-28 describe it?

17. If a young Christian asked you what Jesus meant by "take up your cross," what would you say?

18. Read Colossians 2:15, Psalm 68:11-18, then Ephesians 4:8, where Paul quotes Psalm 68:18. (Bashan is area where Matt. 16:13-23 takes place.) Of what significance is this to our understanding of Matt. 16:13-30?

19. When have you been disappointed with God? How have you dealt with that? How might this study help you?