Grace Group Leaders’ Notes: Matthew 16v13-17v13

***Remember:*** *Whatever else we take away, we always want to emphasise grace and hope.*

**1. Review (5 mins)**

***Q:*** *Read* ***Matt 15v8-9****.**Have you spotted yourself falling into this trap this week?*

**2. Recap (15 minutes)**

**Summary:** Jesus is God’s chosen king, and nothing can stop him building his church through suffering.

***NOTE: Aim to make at least one question “chat in 2s/3s” (perhaps by gender) to vary the format.***

***Q:*** *Read* ***Matt 16v13-20****.*

* *How should Peter’s answer to Jesus’ question change his life, and ours?*
* *What might be the rock that Jesus refers to?*
* *What might be the keys of the kingdom that Jesus refers to? See also* ***Matt 23v13*** *&* ***Luke 11v52***

*[Leaders: The rock is not so much Peter himself – he wasn’t the first Pope – it is his confession, his realisation as God the Father reveals it to him, that Jesus is the Christ, the Promised Chosen One. The keys of the kingdom seems to refer to an authority and responsibility to teach the gospel. As for ‘binding and loosing’ – we will learn more about this next week.]*

***Q:*** *Read* ***Matt 16v21-28****.*

* *In* ***verse 27****, Jesus says we will be repaid for what we have done. How do the preceding verses help us understand that this is not about earning our salvation?*

*[Leaders: It is about whether what we have done has been to trust in ourselves, and religious rules, and legalism, and working for our salvation, or whether we have followed Jesus, and trusted him to be our suffering saviour.]*

***Q:*** *Read* ***Matt 17v1-13****.*

* *What do you think is going on here? How might it link to* ***16v28****? See also* ***2 Peter 1v16-18****.*

*[Leaders: The ‘coming’ of Jesus in 16v27 is his final return, but the ‘coming’ in 16v28 that some will be privileged to see before they die logically cannot be the same event. Rather, it is the transfiguration, that is itself a foretaste of the ‘real Jesus’, to be glimpsed again at his resurrection.]*

* *In* ***16v20*** *and* ***17v9****, why do you think Jesus gives these similar commands to his disciples?*

**3. Application (20 minutes)**

***Q: Look back at each of the three sections, and consider:***

* *How does each section help inform how we might go about our evangelism?*
* *How does each section help encourage us in our evangelism - and wider church and Christian life?*

***Q:*** *What might ‘denying self’ look like this week for you? Try to be specific.*

**4. Prayer (20 minutes)**

*Share prayer requests, particularly in view of the passage, and pray.*