

LESSON 9
JUST DO IT
MATTHEW 16:1—18:35



1 Who are the two or three best teachers you ever had?

2 What made each person a great teacher?



Read Matthew 16:1—18:35 and the following notes:

☐ 16:13–17 ☐ 16:18 ☐ 16:20 ☐ 16:21 ☐ 16:22 ☐ 16:26 ☐ 17:5
☐ 17:9 ☐ 17:22, 23

3 Who is Jesus (16:13–20)?

4 What difficulties did the disciples have with Jesus' true identity (16:5–12, 21, 22; 17:4–8)?

5 How was Jesus' transfiguration an important part of the disciples' training (17:1–13)?

The disciples were first attracted to Jesus by his teaching. Even today many people admire Jesus as a teacher but reject the idea that he is God. But there are two big problems with believing that Jesus is merely a great teacher. The first is that if we truly believe Jesus is a great teacher, we would follow his teachings. In reality, most people who call Jesus great do very little to follow what he said. The second problem is that Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. Could he qualify as a great teacher if he were not who he claimed to be? So to say he was a great man yet not the Son of God doesn't make sense. Who do you say Jesus is? As Jesus made clear to his disciples, admiring him but not submitting to him is the same as not recognizing his true identity.



6 What difference does a person's belief about Jesus' identity make in his/her life?

7 Who do people often say Jesus is today?



8 Who do you say Jesus is?

9 How has your understanding of Jesus' identity changed over time?

10 At what times do you struggle with Jesus' authority over your life?

11 In what areas and situations do you need to submit more to Christ's authority?



12 What area of your life will you submit more to the authority of Christ this week?

13 What does Christ want you to do in this area that you are not doing?

14 What will be your first step in submitting to Christ?

A Why wouldn't Jesus give some kind of sign to the people who were hounding him for evidence supporting his divine claims (16:4)? What kind of signs do people often demand from God today? What evidence do they already have? What can you say to people who want God to prove his existence with a sign?

MORE
for studying
other themes
in this section

B How is yeast like wrong ideas and teaching (16:6, 11, 12)? What false teaching do we need to beware of today?

C What does it mean to deny ourselves and follow Christ (16:24–28)? What must we deny to follow Christ? What “cross” must we take up? What changes has following Christ brought to your life? What have you lost and gained?

D What did the disciples try to do in their own strength (17:14–21)? What do we often try to do in our own strength today? How can we exercise faith in these areas of our life?

E What kind of tax did Peter pay for himself and Jesus (17:24–27)? In this instance, why did Jesus have them pay it? What did Jesus teach by his example?

F Why is it important not to tempt others to sin (18:7–9)? What steps can you take to avoid tempting others?

G What does it mean to welcome a little child on Christ's behalf (18:5)? With what children do you regularly come in contact? How could you welcome them in Christ's name?

H How do we know children are important to God (18:10–14)? In what ways do adults sometimes “despise” children? How can we be sure to treat children as God values them?

I How are we to respond when someone sins against us (18:15–17)? Who has wronged you? What could you do or say to this person that would help you respond as God wants you to?

J In the parable of the unforgiving debtor (18:21–35), why should the wicked servant have forgiven his borrower? Of what debt has God forgiven you? How does this compare to the debts owed you? How will you let Christ work in your life so that you can forgive those who have offended you?