



**DAY 1 – MATTHEW 16:1-12**

1. What did you find new or interesting from the lecture?
2.
  - a. What motivated the Pharisees and Sadducees to request a sign?
  - b. Read Mark’s version in Mark 8:11-13. How did Jesus feel about their argumentative approach?
  - c. How do you think you should respond to people who question your faith with this approach?
3.
  - a. What signs were the Pharisees and Sadducees ignoring?
  - b. Do you think people are ignoring the signs of the times today? Explain.
4. How is Jesus Himself the ultimate “sign”? (See CCC 515)
5.
  - a. How did the disciples interpret Jesus’ words in a literalistic way?
  - b. How does the Catholic Church interpret the written Word of God? (See CCC 111-114)
  - c. Explain the two senses of Scripture. (See CCC 115-117)
6.
  - a. What did Jesus mean by “leaven” in His warning to the disciples?
  - b. How can a person be taught to recognize false teaching?

**DAYS 2 & 3 – MATTHEW 16:13-20**

7.
  - a. What were the results of the opinion poll Jesus took about His identity?
  - b. What are the various opinions today about Jesus’ identity?
  - c. Who do you say Jesus is? **(Personal)**
8.
  - a. The Father revealed Jesus’ true identity to Peter. What special position did Jesus then promise to Peter? (See CCC 552, 881)
  - b. Who is Peter’s successor today and what power does he have over the Church? (See CCC 882)
9. Relate today’s verses to Matthew 7:24-27. (See also Eph 2:19-20; Rv 21:14; CCC 869)
10.
  - a. What do the “keys” to the kingdom of heaven symbolize? (See CCC 553)
  - b. Read Isaiah 22:20-23. Eliakim was to be the vizier, or master of the house. How does this prefigure the power of the keys and the position of the Pope?
11. What three functions does the power to “bind and loose” signify? (See CCC 553)

12. a. Some claim that the “Church” is the invisible, worldwide community of believers. What does Jesus reveal about the Church in today’s verses and in Matthew 5:14?
- b. According to CCC 771 how is the Church both visible and spiritual?
13. How do today’s verses refute the claim of others that the Church is a man-made institution?
14. What did Jesus mean by: “the gates of the netherworld will not prevail against it”? (See CCC 869)

#### **DAY 4 – MATTHEW 16:21-17:8**

15. a. How did Peter react to the Lord’s revelation of His suffering?
- b. Why would Jesus associate Peter’s protest with Satan?
- c. When have you been an obstacle to God’s work? **(Personal)**
16. Does Peter’s failure disprove the dogma of the infallibility of the Pope? Why or why not? (See CCC 890-891)
17. Jesus exhorts His disciples to deny themselves. According to CCC 226, from what should one be detached?
18. What physical manifestation seems to run through many visions of God in Scripture? (See Ex 34:29; Dn 10:5-6; Acts 26:13-15; Rv 1:13-17)
19. According to Luke 9:30-31, what was the topic of conversation between Jesus, Moses and Elijah?
20. How did the Apostles react when the Father spoke?
21. Why was it important for the Apostles to witness Jesus’ Transfiguration? (See 2 Pt 1:16-19; CCC 555)

#### **DAY 5 – MATTHEW 17:9-27**

22. a. Some people use verses 11-12 to suggest the idea of reincarnation. What did Jesus meant in these verses? (See CCC 523, 2684)
- b. What Scripture does CCC 1013 reference to refute the idea of reincarnation?
23. a. Why were the disciples unable to drive the demon out of the boy and what do you learn from this?
- b. Some translations include the verse “But this kind does not come out except by prayer and fasting.” How can this story help you pray for your children? (See also Mk 9:14-29)
24. a. Why was it important for Jesus to pay the Temple tax?
- b. How did Jesus show Peter that He would always provide what was necessary?
- c. How did Peter use his talents to participate in God’s provision? What does this teach you?
25. How has this lesson increased your understanding of the papacy?