MYSTERY & MAJESTY
– 18 –
Good Intentions & God's Way

All scriptures use the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise indicated

- Matthew 16 is a hinge because it represents a major shift in Jesus 'ministry.
- Peter makes the confession of Jesus as "Christ, son of the Living God" which changes everything.
- Now, we begin the march towards the cross.
- We are in the approximate timeframe of 1 year before the crucifixion.
- Jesus is going to predict his death burial and resurrection.

Matthew 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

- How do you prepare people you love for your suffering and murder?
- "from that time" Jesus had to repeatedly tell this to his disciples
- Jesus is revealing a Messiah that is different from their common expectations; the suffering messiah.
- He was not the only "Messiah" figure of the 1st century.
- Psalm 22, Isaiah 53, Daniel 9.
- "He MUST go…and suffer" not because of unfortunate circumstances.
- The cross is not something Jesus failed to avoid or God's plans falling apart.
- It is God's redemptive purpose.
- He didn't just predict his death, but also his resurrection.

Matthew 16:22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you."

- Peter cannot fathom this and doesn't want this to happen.
- He takes Jesus to the side and rebukes Jesus as though he has the power to govern God's will.
- You can reject God for love.
- Love is good but even love has to submit to God.
- Good intentions can oppose God's purpose.
- Sincere motives don't guarantee right actions.

Matthew 16:23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

- Shocking.
- Peter is doing what Satan would do.
- The point is that Peter's opposition to the cross aligns with Satan's opposition to God's plan.
- Matthew 4 in the wilderness.
- Take the crown without the cross.
- Peter (rock), a part of the foundation, has become a stumbling block in front of Jesus.

What does it mean to set my mind on God's things?

- It means allowing God's revelation to correct my thoughts, desire, emotions and instincts, rather than using them to correct God's revelation.

Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

- Jesus is the way the truth and the life.