# Sunday 20th July – Connect Group Notes

## Read Matthew 16:13-17

Why was it important at this stage in Jesus’ ministry that his apprentices (disciples) should have a clear understanding of who he was?

How did they respond to the question “who do you say that I am?”?

How do we respond?

Read Matthew 16:18-20

Peter was praised by Jesus, then condemned. What do we learn about Jesus and about Peter from these verses?

Read Matthew 16: 21-28

There is a paradox in verse 24. How do you understand the passage “whoever will lose his life for my sake will gain it?

How should this idea reflect the way we live?

In verse 24 Jesus talks about denial, cross bearing and following him. In practical terms what do these concepts mean to our generation of faith? Give any examples you have heard about or from your own experience

In verse 26 what do you understand by gaining the whole world, and by losing your soul? There wasn’t time in the sermon to look at this concept in the light of the temptations (Matthew 4:8-11), but ask yourself how Jesus’ experience in Matthew 4 may have influenced this comment in verse 26

Verse 27 talks about Jesus returning in his father’s glory and rewarding people according to what they have done. Discuss what Jesus meant, and the implications of what he said

 Next Steps – Practising the Way

 The three strands of this series have been following Jesus, doing what Jesus did, becoming like Jesus. How can you develop these in your life?