

Pastor Roy's Sermon on Matthew 16:1-28 **(November 25, 2025)**

—Below are questions from that lesson to further our understanding—

1. The opening story asks 'What then?' after every life milestone. How does this question challenge our priorities and force us to consider what truly matters beyond our earthly plans?
2. The Pharisees and Sadducees demanded a sign despite witnessing many miracles. What does this reveal about the condition of a hardened heart, and how can we guard against spiritual blindness in our own lives?
3. Jesus warned about the 'leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees,' referring to false teaching. How can we discern between genuine biblical truth and the religious traditions or cultural Christianity that might be corrupting the church today?
4. When Peter confessed Jesus as 'the Christ, the Son of the living God,' Jesus said this was revealed by the Father, not by flesh and blood. What does this teach us about the source of true spiritual understanding and our dependence on God for revelation?
5. Jesus told Peter 'Get behind me, Satan' when Peter tried to prevent His path to the cross. In what ways might our well-intentioned desires or human reasoning actually oppose God's purposes?
6. The sermon emphasizes that Jesus is the Rock upon which the church is built, not Peter or any human institution. How does this truth protect us from placing our faith in religious leaders or organizations rather than in Christ alone?
7. Jesus said, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.' What does dying to self practically look like in your daily life, and what specific areas of your will need to be surrendered?
8. The message states that whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Christ's sake will find it. How does this paradox challenge our natural instinct for self-preservation and comfort?
9. Jesus asked, 'What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?' What worldly pursuits, possessions, or pleasures might be tempting you to compromise your eternal destiny?
10. The sermon concludes by noting that some would see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom before tasting death, possibly referring to those who witnessed the resurrection. How should the reality of Christ's victory over death transform how we face trials, persecution, or our own mortality?