

CASE CLOSED



SERMON TITLE: Case Closed

KEY TEXT (MSG): Matthew 16:13-16

OTHER TEXTS (NLT, MSG): Philippians 2:12, Matthew 11:12, Mark 16:17-18, Ephesians 6:13, Hosea 4:6, Daniel 11:32b, Ephesians 6:13, Joshua 1:8, 2 Timothy 2:15, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 8:1.

Big Idea: God calls us to go beyond attending church or repeating what others say about Him; He desires believers who personally know Jesus in a deep, intimate way and are doers of His Word. Like Jesus asked His disciples, “*Who do you say I am?*”, each of us must personally know Him as Lord. This kind of intimate relationship is built through daily fellowship with Him and obedience to His Word. When we know Christ for ourselves, our faith becomes strong and unshakable. We can stand firm in trials, and our service flows from conviction rather than pressure. True strength and effective witness come not from secondhand knowledge, but from a personal, living relationship with Jesus, the Son of the Living God.

In this sermon, Pastor Maureen Shana teaches us to move beyond secondhand knowledge of Jesus and go into a personal, deep relationship with Him, one that strengthens your faith and empowers you to live as faithful witnesses.

Matthew 16:13-16 NKJV

When Jesus arrived in the villages of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “What are people saying about who the Son of Man is?”

They replied, “Some think he is John the Baptizer, some say Elijah, some Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

He pressed them, “And how about you? Who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter said, “You’re the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

God Bless You!

The Connection Groups Office

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Leader Heads-Up: Great leaders don't just count who shows up; they notice who's missing. ***Take attendance faithfully***, and check in on those absent; ***it's how care becomes real***.

A. Start Talking:

Share how participating in Outreach activities this year impacted you personally, and what stood out most from your experience.

B. Start Thinking

1. Read **Matthew 16:15 MSG**. Share who Jesus is in your life, and the evidence of that relationship in your daily choices and actions?
2. In what ways does knowing God give you strength to stand firm in challenges, and how will you apply that strength in your current season? Read **Ephesians 6:13 NKJV**.
3. Read **2 Timothy 2:15 NKJV** and **Joshua 1:8 NKJV**. How will you move from being a church member/attendee to becoming an active witness for Christ in your family, workplace, or community this week?

C. Start Praying

Pray that you will desire to know God intimately each day, so that your faith is strong, your steps are guided, and your life reflects His truth.

D. Start Doing

1. **Examine** your personal relationship with Jesus to ensure you know Him beyond Church attendance or other people's opinions.
2. **Strengthen** your faith through consistent study and meditation on God's Word so that you can stand firm in trials.
3. **Commit** to living out your life daily for God, and reflect Christ in your words and actions.
4. **Embrace** personal responsibility for spiritual growth by seeking intimacy with God rather than relying on other people's knowledge.

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