



Week of August 30 – September 05, 2026 14th Sunday after Pentecost

FOCUS VERSE

Matthew 16:23

“But he turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’”

SERMON NOTES:

What stood out in this week’s sermon? (Theme, phrase, reference, etc.) What questions stir up within you? What do you want to explore further?

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT

Just moments after Peter confesses Jesus as the Messiah, he becomes a stumbling block to Jesus' mission. Peter cannot imagine a Messiah who suffers. Peter is focused on human things such as success, strength, and self-preservation. He wants a Savior who conquers, triumphs, and wins. The cross makes no sense to him. Jesus is focused on divine things like sacrifice, love, forgiveness, and redemption.

The challenge for us as disciples is that Peter's temptation is often our own. We want faith that doesn't require sacrifice. Our world makes it hard to conceive a savior who saves through suffering. But God's work is frequently found in places the world considers weakness or failure. To follow Jesus means learning to see beyond human measures of success and trusting that God is at work even through suffering and sacrifice.

CONSIDER

Where in your life are you tempted to measure faithfulness by success, comfort, or security rather than by obedience to Christ's call?



Week of August 30 – September 05, 2026 14th Sunday after Pentecost

FOCUS VERSE

Matthew 16:18

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SERMON NOTES:

What stood out in this week’s sermon? (Theme, phrase, reference, etc.) What questions stir up within you? What do you want to explore further?

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT

Just moments after Peter confesses Jesus as the Messiah, he becomes a stumbling block to Jesus' mission. Peter cannot imagine a Messiah who suffers. Peter is focused on human things such as success, strength, and self-preservation. He wants a Savior who conquers, triumphs, and wins. The cross makes no sense to him. Jesus is focused on divine things like sacrifice, love, forgiveness, and redemption.

The challenge for us as disciples is that Peter's temptation is often our own. We want faith that doesn't require sacrifice. Our world makes it hard to conceive a savior who saves through suffering. But God's work is frequently found in places the world considers weakness or failure. To follow Jesus means learning to see beyond human measures of success and trusting that God is at work even through suffering and sacrifice.

CONSIDER

Where in your life are you tempted to measure faithfulness by success, comfort, or security rather than by obedience to Christ's call?

BEYOND SUNDAY:

**Readings intended to help you reflect and digest this week's worship service.*

MONDAY: Revelation 3:1-6 (*The Message to Sardis*)

Most **MEMORABLE** verse for you, in this passage, at this time?

What makes this verse so **MEANINGFUL**?

TUESDAY: 2 Samuel 11:27-12:15 (*Nathan Condemns David*)

Memorable: _____

Meaningful: _____

WEDNESDAY: Matthew 12:22-32 (*Jesus and Beelzebub*)

Memorable: _____

Meaningful: _____

BEFORE SUNDAY READINGS:

**Readings intended to help you prepare for the upcoming Sunday:*

THURSDAY: 2 Corinthians 12:11-21 (*Paul's Concern for Corinth*)

Memorable: _____

Meaningful: _____

FRIDAY: Ezekiel 24:15-27 (*Ezekiel's Bereavement*)

Memorable: _____

Meaningful: _____

SATURDAY: Exodus 11 (*Warning of the Final Plague*)

Memorable: _____

Meaningful: _____

Read Ahead: Sept. 06, 2026 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost (Prop 18A)
Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

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