

To start at v. 13, and read almost to the end of the chapter. Mt 16:13ff.

When Jesus came into the coasts of Ceasarea.....take up his cross and follow me" Let us sing....And then going straight out from there and going up to this tremendous church building with statues of the apostles along the front of the building, and then above it is a great dome, the largest dome in all the world. Michelangelo said that he was going to take the Pantheon, the great old Roman temple, in Rome, one of the most beautiful temples there, which was a domed structure, and put it up on top of a church. That's what he did. Only it's greatly increased. It was the plan of that great architect, that great artist, Michelangelo, when you enter, there are pictures on the wall which are made with these little tiny bits of stone put together so that they never lose their colors, and the copies of the famous painting, extremely beautiful and maintaining their freshness, better than many of the original paintings they copied, and very beautiful statues around the side that is most of them. One of them has a toe missing, from being kissed by so many people, but otherwise it is quite well built. And then you come up to the middle of that great church and you look up into the inside of that tremendous dome, the greatest dome anywhere in the world, and around that high about you you see great big letters, letters of gold, and on those you read in the latin language these words which we've just read in Mat. 16:18. Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church. And the church of St. Peter's at Rome has those words from Matthew, in great letters up on the top. The great part of the building of that church was done by Pope Julius II, and Julius had Michelangelo plan statues of Moses and of the other great worthies in the Bible, several of them, to stand around his great tomb which was to be the center of the church, but unfortunately he died before the statues were all finished, so the statues were sent away to other places, and he was buried elsewhere. But it has been the great headquarters of papal power, ever since. And today it is the headquarters of the R. C. church. Now I want to consider with you this morning from three aspects this passage here in Matt. The first of them I am going to deal with more briefly than the other. The first is this matter of its relation to the R. C. church. If you take this