**Week 1: Messiah (A LARGE DEAL to find out (Matt 16:16)…and a disappointment (v22-3) )**

1. A Letdown
   1. Expectation of the people (a physical ruler) (Scripture: Deut 18; Ps 2, 89, 110; Is 42; Daniel 7)
   2. Jesus preaches the Kingdom of His Father (NOT an *immediate* physical kingdom on earth…and yet still a Kingdom that will come to earth and take over earth!)
   3. So, we have to sit with the ‘great letdown’ and read the Gospels with “Jewish” eyes…. “Thus, read in the light of its evident Old Testament context, the phrase ‘kingdom of heaven’ does not refer to a kingdom located in heaven as opposed to the earth, but rather to the coming to earth of a kingdom which is heavenly as to its origin and character.” As God’s chosen people/nation with a Messianic King promised you can imagine how confused they are as to why they aren’t a prosperous, ruling nation.
   4. With the great let down we have to think through how are we expecting Jesus to be someone who fits what we want Him to fit but are not willing to receive Him for who He says He is? Personally and culturally (not thinking He’s going to set up an earthly reign, but also not going to the opposite extreme of caring only about Jesus’ Kingdom for after we die and are “in heaven”). How do we need to surrender to the true Jesus?
   5. “When we experience disappointment, come with humility and kindness and look for how God is doing something BIGGER”... where are we like Peter in Matt 16:23 concerned with human concerns and not God’s concerns? And which do we actually think is better?
   6. ^^Jesus has a history of letting people down… and then delivering way better (i.e. Lazarus; even John the Baptist being offended)
2. A great fulfillment
3. SO many times throughout the Gospels this phrase occurs “... so that what was spoken might be fulfilled”
4. Matt 11:1-6 & Luke 4:17 Jesus fulfills Is 61
5. THE KINGDOM (=The rule and reign of God advancing here on earth, bringing His presence and wholeness back to earth; only what God wants goes forth)! THIS IS WHAT MESSIAH BRINGS!!! And this (“The Kingdom”) is Jesus’ main teaching… all throughout the gospels you will see the phrase “kingdom of God”

Helpful resource: https://jewsforjesus.org/answers/top-40-most-helpful-messianic-prophecies/