



# *Sermon Notes*

**Topic:** The Glove and the Hand: Discovering Identity Through Revelation

**Bible**  
**Passage:** Matthew 16:13–26  
**Preacher:** Ps Sam Toms  
**Date:** 6th April 2025

## **Sermon Summary**


In a world obsessed with self-discovery and identity—through personality tests, self-help books, and cultural affirmation—Jesus invites us into a radically different journey: discovering who we are by first discovering who He is. In Matthew 16, Jesus asks His disciples, “Who do you say I am?”—not as a test, but as an invitation to divine revelation. Peter’s understanding of Jesus as the Messiah becomes the catalyst for Jesus revealing Peter’s own true identity. Like a glove made for the hand, we were made to be filled with the Spirit of God; our purpose flows from knowing His character and making room for Him to lead. We often pray for more of God, but the issue is not God’s willingness to fill—it’s our willingness to be emptied of ourselves. Through surrender, denial of self, and revelation of Jesus, we find our truest identity and calling: to be His hands and feet, empowered by His indwelling presence.



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## Life Group Study Guide

**Title: “The Glove and the Hand: Discovering Identity Through Revelation”**

 **Icebreaker:** If you’ve ever taken a personality test (like the Enneagram, MBTI, or DISC), what did it say about you? Did it feel accurate?

**Follow-up:** Why do you think people are so hungry to know who they are?

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 **Read Together:** Matthew 16:13–26

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### 1. Who do you say Jesus is?

- Why do you think Jesus starts with a question about His identity before revealing anything about Peter's?
- In verse 17, Jesus says Peter's revelation didn't come from "flesh and blood"—why is that significant?
- Has God ever revealed something to you personally (not just through a sermon or book)? What was that like?

**Key Insight:** Revelation of who Jesus is precedes the revelation of who you are.

### 2. The Glove and the Hand

“The glove only makes sense when it is filled with a hand.”

- What does Genesis 1:27 teach us about humanity's original design?
- What might it look like practically for someone to “make room” for the Spirit of God in their life?
- What things (pride, fear, ambition, control) often fill the “glove” and prevent God's hand from working through us?
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**Reflect:** Are there areas in your life where you've been asking God to move, but haven't made room for Him to?



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### 3. Denying Yourself to Discover Yourself

Read again: Matthew 16:24–25

- How does denying ourselves lead to finding our true selves?
- What’s the difference between losing yourself in the world vs. losing yourself in Christ?
- Why do you think God often works powerfully through the broken or humble?

**Challenge Question:** What would it mean this week to take a step toward “emptying yourself” of something that’s been crowding out God?

### 4. Dangerous Prayers

The sermon ended with some powerful, risky prayers of surrender. Consider these:

“God, would you do whatever you need to do to empty me of my corrupt agendas?”

“Would you stir a desire in me to know your character more deeply?”

“Would I stop trying to be something or someone, and intentionally become less so You can become more in my life?”

**Prompt:**

- Which of these prayers resonates most with you right now?
- What scares you about praying it?
- What excites you?



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## RESPONSE & PRAYER

**Split into smaller groups (or pairs) and spend time praying together:**

- Ask God to reveal Jesus more clearly to each person.
  - Invite the Holy Spirit to fill the “glove” of your life afresh.
  - Ask God for the courage to let go of false identities and trust His process.
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## PRACTICAL CHALLENGE

**This Week:**

- Spend 10 minutes a day in the Word (head) and in worship (heart).
- Let it be a “darkroom moment” where revelation can develop.
- Write down anything the Holy Spirit reveals about His character—or about who you are in Him.