



# Harbor Trinity Groups

## *Discussion Questions*

**Sermon Title:** The Greats: Great Confessions

**Scripture:** Matthew 16:13-20; Mark 8:27-30

**Date:** January 4th, 2026

**Speaker Name:** Shane Costa

1. Is there someone or something you believe to be the greatest of all time? Why?
2. As you consider the words and actions of Jesus, is there something He said or did that you believe to be the greatest or the most impactful to you? Why?
3. Our series this month will include The Great Confession (Matthew 16:13-20), The Great Commandment (Matthew 22:34-40), The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20), and the Great Collaboration (John 17:20-26). How familiar are you with these statements? Are there others you would include in the “great” list?
4. Shane acknowledged the difference between our modern understanding of confession (a formal statement admitting that one is guilty of a crime) and historic understanding (to acknowledge). Why is this difference important as we consider The Great Confession?
5. Let’s read Matthew 16:13-20 and Mark 8:27-30. Are there differences or distinctions between Matthew and Mark’s account? What about the surrounding context?
6. Jesus’s question, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” (Matthew 18:13) and follow up to His disciples, “But who do you say that I am?” (Matthew 18:15) continue to be powerful questions. How do you answer them?
7. The Great Confession is, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 18:16). What is the significance of this statement?
8. How is the disciples' understanding of “the Christ” distinct from the one we have today?
9. Jesus told Peter “on this rock I will build my church” (Matthew 16:18). What are the Catholic and Protestant understandings of this statement? How has Jesus continued to build upon this confession?
10. Jesus told His disciples, “the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). This is as true today as it was when Jesus spoke it. Can we confess and pray for the promised, saving power of Jesus upon our lives and circumstances?