Scripture Reading – August 23, 2026 – for Little Current United Church

Matthew 16:13-20 NRSV Ue

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

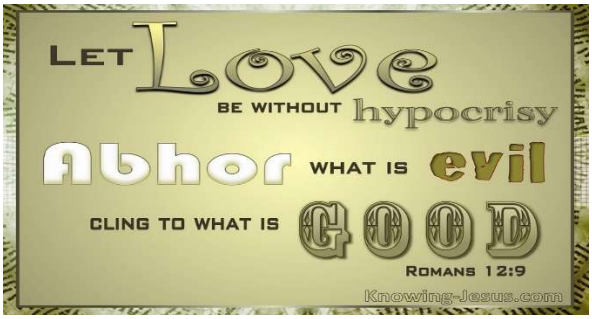
13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do
people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others
Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say
that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." 17 And
Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not
revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I
will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys
of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and
whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then he sternly ordered the disciples
not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Romans 12:1-8

The New Life in Christ

12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your
bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of
worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so
that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly
than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith
that God has assigned. 4 For as in one body we have many members and not all the members
have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are
members one of another. 6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy,
in proportion to faith; 7 ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; 8 the encourager, in
encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in
cheerfulness.

May God's spirit shape our understanding of these words.

And may they awaken in our hearts