



## **Counterfeit Gods** April 14<sup>th</sup> / April 15<sup>th</sup>

Speaker: **Pastor Joel Schmidgall**

Scripture: **Matt 16:13-15**

### **Sermon Summary:**

Assumptions, associations, and misconceptions all tear down our faith in God. The problem is that they are rooted in untruth and so we walk away from a god that doesn't exist. The goal of this weekend's message is to weed through the misconceptions and identify the counterfeit gods in our thought process - those ideas that we learned as a kid but never gained a great understanding, those ill-fitted explanations from good intentioned people, or the outright manipulations from someone speaking out of turn. Let's peel back the layers of untruth as we seek to explore who God really is during this series.

### **Sermon Series Questions:**

1. What did God reveal to you?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. What is one element of God's character you learned?

### **Sermon Specific Questions:**

1. Where in your life do you make assumptions based on associations?
2. Is your faith dynamic? What does it mean to have "dynamic faith?"
3. Talk through the six counterfeit gods that Pastor Joel outlined in his sermon (e.g. Secret Service God, Frankenstein God, Slot Machine God, Association God, Thoughtless God, Emotional God)? Have you ever believed in one or more of those gods? How did your view of that god shift over time?

## Digging Deeper

### Six Counterfeit Gods

Pastor Joel outlined six counterfeit gods that we can allow ourselves to create. What other counterfeit gods have you created?

- **Secret Service God** – A god whose sole purpose is to protect you and all you love.
- **Frankenstein God** – A god who is pieced together by all your favorite parts.
- **Slot Machine God** – A god who will bring you happiness when you obey.
- **Association God** – A god who reflects another person who claims to be religious.
- **Thoughtless God (a.k.a Mob Boss God)** – A god that doesn't allow you to question.
- **Emotional God** – A god that always need to be felt by an emotional response.

### God Through the Lens of Culture

Pastor Joel mentioned that throughout history, Jesus has been depicted as a reflection of the surrounding people and culture. This is most clearly represented through the visual arts. **What role does your culture play in your understanding of Christ and who God is.**



### Recommended Resources:

Want to dive deeper into the concepts brought up in this week's sermon? Check out these resources below.

#### Windows into the Bible

Marc Turnage

#### You Lost Me

David Kinnaman

#### Misreading the Bible with Western Eyes

E. Randolph Richards & Brandon J. O'Brien

#### Science Increases the Case for God

Eric Metaxas