

“You Are The Christ, The Son Of The Living God” (lesson #7)

Matthew 16:13-20

1. Where were Jesus & the disciples?

Caesarea Philippi – 120 miles north of Jerusalem;

Strongly identified with pagan religions: it had been a center for Baal worship; there was a shrine to the Greek god Pan; Herod built a temple to honor Augustus Caesar.

2. What question did Jesus ask of them & what was their reply (13-14)?

Why would Jesus be mistaken for John the Baptist? **Herod** thought so (Mk 6:16).

John was the prophesied Elijah who came, like Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children (Mal 4:5; Lk 1:13-17; Matt 11:14; 17:11-12).

In what way was Jesus more like Jeremiah than Elijah (Isa 53:3; Jer 9:1-2; Matt 23:37-39)?

This proves we can never make a fair or accurate assessment of Jesus by taking a poll of the people. **We** must trust the evidence provided.

3. What is the next question of Jesus & how did Peter reply (15-16)?

Peter's confession was based on reliable – visible – personal evidence.

Our confession therefore is based on faith (Heb 11:1 “*Faith is the substance* (a setting under, a support resulting in assurance) *of things hoped for, the evidence* (proof resulting in conviction) *of things not seen.*”).

Note other confessions: Nathaniel (Jn 1:49); Disciples after Jesus calmed the storm (Matt 14:33); Peter (Jn 6:68-69); Andrew (Jn 1:41).

4. How had the Father revealed to Peter his answer (17)?

By revelation (Matt 11:25-26; Jn 6:44-45)

Did this mean that Peter was inspired of the Holy Spirit at this time? **No! Peter** had simply accepted the testimony offered by Father concerning His Son.

Paul's came by his knowledge through inspiration (Gal 1:11-17; Eph 3:1-7).

5. What was the “rock” upon which the Lord’s church would be built (1 Cor 3:11)?

Christ or The Truth of the Confession.

The Jews were familiar with this term “rock” in connection with Jehovah (Deut 32:4; Psa 18:2; Psa 18:31).

“**Peter**” – petros: a stone; the name Jesus gave him (Jn 1:42).

(Cephas is Aramaic)

Christians are “living stones” & part of a “spiritual house” (1 Pet 2:5).

“**Rock**” – petra” a large rock.

Compare (1 Cor 3:11 with Psa 118:22-23; Isa 28:16; Eph 2:19-20).

6. Identify “gates of hell” (Hades) (18).

“**Gates**” – Power; indicating a hall where important decisions are made, like the hall of justice or the courthouse.

“**Hell, Hades, Death**” – symbolizes the organized power of Satan to cause death & to attempt to thwart the purposes of God.

Jesus would “storm the gates” & deliver the captives by means of His resurrection from the dead (1 Cor 15:50ff; Heb 2:14-15).

7. What promise was made to Peter (vs. 19)?

“**Keys** of the kingdom of heaven” – a symbol of authority not actual keys to the pearly gates.

He used that authority (Acts 2, 3, 8:14; 10).

He shared that authority in common with the other apostles (Acts 18:18), including Paul (Acts 14:27).

8. Explain, “bind & loose” in heaven; “bind & loose” on earth (19; 18:18).

“**Bind**” – to be in bonds, knit, tie, wind: *to hold one responsible*.

“**Loose**” – to loosen: *to release one from responsibility*.

The Greek verbs indicate that Heaven preordained the action.

Give examples of Peter or the apostles “binding & loosing”.

9. Why didn't Jesus want it spread that he was the Christ (20)?

His “time” was “not yet come” (Jn 2:4; 7:6, 8; Matt 26:18).

When His time did come, He gave two signs that He was the Christ:

1) “The sign of Jonah” (Matt 12:40).

2) His ascension & coronation in Heaven proven when He sent the Holy Spirit or Comforter to the apostles (Jn 14-16).

10. Is there a difference...“foundation” (Eph 2:20) & “foundation” (1 Cor 3:11)?

The apostles are an extension of Christ; **they** completed the revelation of God.

APPLICATION:

1. *How* do we “bind & loose” today, *what* are the limits?

We “hold” & “release from responsibility” to God on the basis of His Truth (Jn 16:13; 17:17; 2 Jn 9).

2. *What* do we “bind & loose today”? (Give examples).

Bind:

The will of the Father (Matt 7:21)

The word of Christ (Jn 12:48; 2 Jn 9)

The things learned from the apostles (Phil 4:9; 1 Cor 14:37)

The things written (1 Cor 4:6)

Loose:

The commandments of men (Matt 15:9)

The Law of Moses (Rom 7:4)

The headship of man (3 Jn 9, 11)