

THE QUESTION THAT DETERMINES EVERYTHING

MATTHEW 16:13-20

An Unlikely _____

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi ... v. 13a

The Site

The Significance

A Strategic _____

... he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" vv.13b-15

A question of public consensus

A question of personal conviction

A Critical _____

Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven." vv. 16, 17

Peter's Response

God's Revelation

A Prophetic _____

"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." v. 18

The Foundation of the Church

The Opposition to the Church

An Entrusted _____

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." v. 19

Who holds the keys?

Matthew 16:19 → Matthew 18:18 → John 20:23

What kind of authority?

A Temporary _____

Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ. v. 20

■ SO WHAT ...

... is your response to the question?

... is our responsibility with the answer?

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:20-21



Communion

"For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (1 Cor 11:26). Learn more about how we remember Jesus and proclaim Him as our risen Savior through the Lord's Supper.

HOME GROUP Lesson + Devotional

Before you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide your study.

1. Read Matthew 16:13-20. The question of Christ's true identity is still debated around the world. What answers have you heard people give about Christ's identity? How have you responded to those answers?

2. Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" How did the disciples answer? What do their answers suggest about their understanding of Jesus' identity?

3. Jesus got more direct in verse 15: "Who do you say I am?" What was Simon Peter's answer? What is important about the answer he gave?

4. What significance is attached to Simon's new name?

5. Compare Jesus' words to Peter in v. 19 to His words to all the disciples in Matthew 18:18-20 and John 20:23 (refer also to your notes from the sermon). Do these verses indicate that Jesus was giving only Peter special position or privilege in the church? Why or why not?

6. How are Christians "living stones"? How does it change your daily life to understand your identity in Christ as a living stone in the church He has built?

7. How has the sermon sharpened your focus on the importance of the question of "Who do you say I am?" Where does your answer to that question come from?

8. Jesus' question *Who do you say that I am?* is an example of one of His teaching methods. Asking a question demands engagement, promotes thinking and draws out a considered response. How can this question become a tool you can use with others when talking about Jesus?

HELPFUL Quotes

... Peter himself is the rock, but in a special sense. He is not the rock on which the Church is founded; that rock is God. He is the first initial foundation stone of the whole Church. ... In other words, Peter was the first member of the Church, and, in that sense, the whole Church is built on him. - Warren Wiersbe

The next key word in this important verse is "church." The only occurrences of this word (Gr. *ekklesia*) in all four Gospels are here and in 18:17. The Greek word refers to an assembly of people called out for a particular purpose. It comes from the verb *ekkaleo*, "to call out from." ... Jesus used it here with a new meaning. Matthew used the term *ekklesia* to refer to a new entity that was yet to come into existence. Jesus said that He would build it in the future. He would not yet establish His kingdom on earth, but He would build His church. Furthermore, Jesus claimed the church as His own in a unique sense by calling it "My church." Jesus revealed the existence of this new entity here for the first time in history. - Tom Constable

YOUR NEXT STEP AT Christ Chapel



Connect and Belong

New or returning, fill out a Connect Card and experience life together at Christ Chapel.

Together in Prayer

We want to pray with and for you this week as we go to God together.



Partner With Us by Giving

Be a part of what God is doing near and far by giving to local and global ministry partners.

Upcoming Events

Join in to grow your faith, make disciples, and reach those who do not know or walk with Jesus.



A WONDERFUL Offer

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Admit that you're a sinner, separated from a holy and perfect God.
(Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Understand that the penalty for your sin is death – eternal separation from God and all that is good.
(Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Believe that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and conquered death by rising from the dead.
(Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior from sin and death and your provider of true and eternal life.
(Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in him alone as the only way to be reconciled to you. Thank you for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen.



We'd love to know about your decision. Scan the QR code to learn more about following Jesus!