

A Study of the Book of Matthew: Chapter 16 v. 13-20

Upon entering Caesarea, Jesus asks the disciples who the people say He is. (v.13-15).

- Why would Jesus ask the disciples this question? _____
 - It is important to note that Jesus is asking who the PEOPLE believe he is.
 - Who do the Disciples think Jesus is? _____ (v. 16)
 - Who do the Pharisees and Sadducees think Jesus is?

- Who did the disciples say that people thought Jesus was? _____ (v. 14)
 - All of the individuals that Jesus was believed to be weren't without reason. Herod believes that Jesus is John the Baptist raised from the dead in Matthew 14. Malachi 4:5-6 says that the prophet Elijah will be sent to the people. Apocryphal writing (not scripture) inspired people to believe he was Jeremiah.
 - What do all of these answers have in common? _____
 - All of the above answers are WRONG! Despite telling and showing people over and over again He was the Son of God, some people still weren't grasping who Jesus is!
- Jesus then asks an important question; who do you (the disciples) say I am. (v. 15)
 - Why is it that Jesus would ask the disciples this question? _____
 - The disciples have spent countless hours with Jesus learning many teachings and seeing numerous miracles. They should have NO doubt about who Jesus is.

Peter speaks up and says that Jesus is the Son of God. (v. 16-17).

- Why is Peter's response so significant? _____ (v. 16)
 - Notice that Peter doesn't just refer to Jesus as the "Son of God" or just "Christ", but instead acknowledges BOTH things to be true. Peter is confessing that Jesus is not only the Messiah but also the Son of God.
 - As believers, we must be able to make the same confession as Peter. We must be able to undeniably believe that Jesus is not only the Messiah sent to deliver us, but that he is also God's son. Do able "believers" believe both of these things?

- How does Jesus respond to Peter's confession? _____ (v. 17)
 - What is the difference between knowing and understanding? _____
 - The Pharisees and Sadducees KNEW that Jesus could perform miracles and preached to others but did not accept His word because they didn't understand it. On the contrast, Peter has not only seen and heard what Jesus has done, but UNDERSTANDS that these things are possible because he is the Son of God.
 - When Jesus says Peter is blessed, is he saying he is better than any of the other disciples?

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After Peter's confession, Jesus tells them that His Church will be built upon this same confession.

(v. 18-20).

- What is it that Jesus is basing His church off here? _____ (v. 18)
 - Many people think that Jesus is saying he will build His church around people, but that is not the case. The name Peter (petra) in Greek means stone, but the Greek word Jesus uses here is rock (petros) meaning a foundation stone. Jesus will build his Church around the confession that he is the Son of God!
- Who will be the one in charge of building this Church? _____ (v. 8)
 - The one that will head this up is Jesus!! We move as the hands and feet of Christ today, but we must remember that it is Jesus that leads the Church!
 - Jesus offers us even more assurance with this statement. What will be able to stop His church? _____
 - Not only are we blessed to be a part of God's church, but NOTHING can defeat us! Jesus promises the disciples the same thing here.
- What responsibility does Jesus give to Peter in verse 19? _____
 - In this verse, Jesus tells Peter that he will have the keys to the kingdom, i.e. he will be the person to kick start the work of Jesus after his death. Where do we see this come to fruition?

 - In Acts 2 we see Peter preach the Gospel to the people for the first time! With this sermon, he began the work of sharing the gospel so that everyone could come to Christ.
- What is Jesus trying to say in the back half of verse 19? _____
 - Not only is Peter going to present the Gospel for the first time, but he is also responsible for revealing what God has established in Heaven and abolishing the traditions and laws that did not align with God's will.
 - Jesus doesn't just expect the Church to "figure things out", but is charging Peter with helping people know what to do to honor God.
- Jesus then concludes by telling the disciples not to tell others who He is. (v. 20)
 - Jesus doesn't want to let the people know how He is yet. There's still more that He wants to do before that time comes.