

**Introduction:**

- Mt 16:13-20

**I. Peter Gets Revelation of Christ**A. Who do men say I am? What are people saying about me?

1. This is a very probing question and it is a 'set up' as well. It is a question that is very important to Jesus! He expects them to arrive at the right answer because it is important to His mission. And the answer is still important to the mission today. We have to answer it as well if we want to get what they received.
2. The question causes the disciples to begin to think about the issue of "Who is this One called Jesus?" The question is designed to help them eliminate some answers.
3. The question forces them to answer for themselves what they believe, in light of what others are thinking.
4. Jesus seems to always be leading us to this place. It is the place where we ourselves know what we believe. Because at some point you have to stand alone on your own faith.
5. This question brings to light the intimidating answers/opinions of others. Other peoples opinion often produce intimidation in the people of God. But, revelation of Jesus under the influence of the Holy Spirit produced Boldness!

B. Who do you say I am?

1. Peters answer: *You are the Messiah the Son of the Living God.* Mt 16:16
  - a) *Chrio* - Anoint, root of Christos-the Anointed One.
  - b) Son of the Living God. Living God - Zoe. To be filled with vitality.
2. This was a powerful revelation for Peter and for us to possess. Makarios - blessed, happy full of favor. The state of a man having received something from God.
3. Peters confession of faith marks a turning point in the Book of Matthew.

## C. The revelation that Peter received produced three things.

1. One, it produced the foundation of the Gospel. I will build my church on this understanding/revelation and the all the powers of hell will not be able to overcome it. He wanted them and He wants us to have a proper foundation of all we do ministerially. The foundation is that the Anointed One, Messiah, Son of the Living God has died for us!
2. Two it produced the Keys to the Kingdom. Jesus could not give them the Keys to the Kingdom until they received the revelation of who He is. The authority is in the revelation of who He is!
  - a) Keys unlock things and having this revelation guaranteed that they would be given keys! Keys give you access to things and also deny access to other things.
  - b) You give keys to people you trust. Having the revelation that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the Living God demonstrated that Jesus could trust them! II. Leave home and give keys to trusted friend.
  - c) Jesus was planning on leaving. So He was going to give His keys to someone He could trust to watch over what was His! It has the sound of dominion!
3. Peter's revelation released Jesus to do what He was called to do.

- a) Jesus could not go to Jerusalem until the disciples received the revelation of who He was. *"From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, ..."* (Matthew 16:21, NLT)
- b) Jesus could not do what He was called to do until the disciples 'got it'. What was He called to do? He was called to build the church/ekklesia.
- c) The Revelation of the Christ, established the foundation on which the church would be built, put Kingdom Keys into their hands and released Jesus to do what He was called to do.

## II. Peter Gets Rebuked by Christ

- A. Peter goes from great revelation of the Christ to great rebuke from the Christ. *"But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. "Heaven forbid, Lord," he said. "This will never happen to you!" Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's.""* (Matthew 16:22-23, NLT)
- B. Maybe there is a third question in the context of this passage.
  - 1. Who do men say I am?
  - 2. Who do you say I am?
  - 3. What do you actually believe? Sometimes we have to catch up to our revelation (what we believe.) Peter had the right revelation but failed to see the application. How often do we start with a right revelation but then go with our human understanding. Ie. Abraham had the right revelation but ended up with Ishmael.
- C. How does one with such great revelation end up getting rebuke so powerfully?
  - 1. In Mt 16:18 Peter saw with the eyes of the spirit. (heavens view). The he began looking with the natural eyes (human perspective). Saw Jesus walk on water but when he looked at the waves and wind he started to sink. Circumstances/fear moved him from the place of revelation!
    - a) Ie. Paul was rebuke by his followers from going to Jerusalem.
    - b) They had the right revelation of what was ahead for him but wrong application.
  - 2. He was shifted from heavens view to human perspective because of his selfishness. (Fear of not enough, fear of men/other opinions) *"Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me."* (Matthew 16:23-24, NLT)
  - 3. He loved the 'feel good' scriptures but did not like the hard ones. Love the messiah passages! Not the cross passages.

## III. Peter Gets Revelation of Christ

- A. **Mt 17:1** Six days later Jesus takes Peter James and John "UP" to a high mountain. Transfiguration. (Rev 4:1 *"Come up here and I will show you..."*) And once again Peter gets powerful revelation.

- B. And once again Peter responds with earthly perspective. Let's build three tabernacles. The father responds: "Shut up and listen! This is my Son." "Remember Peter? You had this revelation?"
- C. It is important that in the midst of great revelation that we do not respond with a human perspective. Therefore we need to be asking, What is heaven's application of this truth?