

Jesus Asks Who Do You Say I Am?

Easter 2021 Series: Our Hope Renewed

Matthew 16 .. John 18 .. Mark 14

PREPARATIONS

Matthew 16:13-14 *When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, Who do people say that the Son of Man is? Well, they replied, some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.*

Why would Jesus bring his disciples to such a place like this?

OUR LIFE CAN HINGE ON OUR ANSWER TO ONE QUESTION

Matthew 16:15 *Then he asked them, **But who do you say I am?** Simon Peter answered and said, **you are the Christ, the Son of the living God.** Jesus answered and said to him, **blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.***

Our mission requires us to TAKE ON the gates of hell; WE ARE OVERCOMING THE DARKNESS with HIS LIGHT!

WHAT PEOPLE SEE IN US IS FAR LESS THAN WHAT JESUS SEES IN US!

Easter is our opportunity to RENEW and RECOMMIT ourselves to HIS mission, to the purposes of the GOOD NEWS rather than hide out or run away and let fear control us.

Matthew 16:18 *And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. I tell you that you ARE PETER (Petros – little rock), and on this rock (Petra – big rock) I will build my church...*

FAILURE 1 - HE FELL ASLEEP WHILE ON WATCH

Mark 14:32-42 *Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, sit here while I pray. And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch. Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour? Again He went away and prayed, and spoke the same words. And when He returned, He found them asleep again...Then He came the third time and said to them, are you still sleeping and resting? Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.*

FAILURE 2 - HE CHOSE TO TAKE MATTERS INTO HIS OWN HANDS

John 18:7 *Then He asked them again, whom are you seeking? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus answered, I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way, that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, of those whom You gave Me I have lost none. Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. So Jesus said to Peter, put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?*

FAILURE 3 - HE DENIED BEING A FOLLOWER OF JESUS

Luke 22:54-62 So they arrested him and led him to the high priest's residence, and **Peter was following far behind**...A servant girl noticed him in the firelight and began staring at him. Finally she said, this man was one of Jesus' followers **Peter denied it**. Woman...**I don't even know the man!** After a while someone else looked at him and said, You must be one of them! **No, man, I'm not!** About an hour later someone else insisted, this must be one of Jesus' disciples because he is a Galilean, too...**Man, I don't know what you are talking about.** And as soon as he said these words, the rooster crowed. At that moment the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered that the Lord had said, Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny me three times. **And Peter left the courtyard, crying bitterly.**

REINSTATEMENT

Mark 16:1-7 ...Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him...And they said among themselves, who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us? But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away...they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; he said to them, do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. **He is risen! He is not here.** See the place where they laid Him. But go, **tell His disciples — and PETER**

DO YOU LOVE ME?

John 21:16-19 He said to Him, Yes, Lord; You know that I love You. He said to him, **feed My lambs.** He said to him again a second time, Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord; You know that I love You. He said to him, **tend My sheep.** He said to him the third time, Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me? Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, **feed My sheep.**

FOLLOW ME

John 21:18 *Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish. This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, **He said to him, follow Me.***

WHAT DID PETER DO IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS DOUBTS AND FEARS?

Peter went back to his OLD WAY OF LIFE. Even **devoted believers can be caught off guard because they don't see the attack.** We don't see our vulnerabilities as the enemy sees them. We think we know what to expect but if we are not practicing the disciplines of our spiritual life we can be caught off guard and taken down.

**Jesus Asks Us Two
Life-Changing Questions**

- 1 - Who do you say I am?**
- 2 - Do You Love me?**
