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**Matthew 16:13-19 | Who is Jesus**

Jesus enters into a new setting with his disciples. In Caesarea Philippi, there won't be any religious leaders. Instead, this area was known for its pagan worship. This is a place where Jesus can have some private, intentional discussion with his friends. It is here that Jesus asks a pivotal question - who do you say that I am?

*Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup> And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup> He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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."*

Matthew 16:13-19

Peter provides the correct response - Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Just like Peter, confessing Christ, brings us a new identity. It is this same confession of faith, that binds the entire church as one. Confessing Christ also brings victory and power for the church. With his death and resurrection, Jesus conquered death. He has won the battle and given power and authority to his church to obey God's will on earth.

**Discussion Questions**

- Who does the world say that Jesus is today?
- What is significant about Peter's confession that Jesus is the Christ?
- Who do YOU say that Jesus is?
  - Why is your response significant? (Rom 10:9-10; 1 John 2:18-23)
  - How confident are you in who Jesus is? What steps can you take to gain confidence? (Galatians 2:20)
- How does this passage challenge or encourage someone who is uncertain about who Jesus is?
- Jesus promises to build His church and not even "the gates of Hades" will overcome it. How does this promise encourage or inspire confidence in regard to the mission of the church?

**D&A (Discipleship & Accountability)**

*Break up into smaller groups for prayer.*

- How is your time with God?
- What are you praying for?
- What are you struggling with?
- Who are you praying for to know Jesus?
- What gospel conversations have you had this week with someone who doesn't follow Jesus?