



Matthew 16:13a "Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi ... "

I. Who Does the (Matthew 16:13) Say Jesus Is?

 Jesus Calls Himself "the ______ (Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Matthew 16:14)

II. Who Do _____ Say that Jesus Is? (Matthew 16:15)

A. Peter's Profound Proclamation

(Matthew 16:16)

1. Jesus is "The Christ"

2. Jesus is "The Son of the _____ God"

John 1:49 "Nathanael answered him, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!'"

Matthew 14:33 "And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'"

John 1:41b "We have found the Messiah (which means Christ)."

John 6:68-69 "Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God?'"

B. God is Himself to You (Matthew 16:17; 1 Corinthians 12:3)

C. Jesus Gives You a New (Matthew 16:18a)

1. the Rock

2. the Rock

Psalm 18:2a "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge"

Psalm 18:31 "For who is God, but the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God?"

Psalm 62:1-2 "For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken."

Isaiah 26:4 "Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock."

Isaiah 44:8b "And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock: I know not any."

- 3. _____ the Rock (1 Corinthians 3:11: 1 Peter 1:5, 7: 2:4-5: Matthew 7:24-27)
 - You are Peter (Petros- a stone)
 - And on this Rock (Petra a 'massive stone)
 - I will build my church (Ekklesia assembly, congregation, community, body, called-out ones)

D. The Church Will Advance

Matthew 16:18 "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."

Matthew 16:19 "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."

E. Given the _____

Matthew 16:19 "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 16:20 "Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ."

III. The Before the Crown

Matthew 16:21 "From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

A. Open Mouth, Insert Foot

Matthew 16:22 "And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.'"

B. A Harsh

Matthew 16:23 "But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.'"

Matthew 16:24-25 "Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

April 14, 2024



1. Familiarize Yourself With the Passage and the Gospel

- a. Read Matthew 16:13-20
- b. Do a word study on the word "rock" and find out all the various ways "rock" is used in the New Testament and the Old Testament.

2. Introduction to the Passage (Feel free to use this as a reference guide as you discuss the passage)

<u>Historical Context</u>: Rocks were significant in ancient times. Rocks are used in Scripture often times as imagery or a metaphor. In Isaiah 51:1-2, Abraham and Sarah are called the rock from which God built Israel. Stone, in Psalm 118:22, could refer to the psalmic writer,¹ but in the New Testament this verse came to refer to Christ who was rejected by men (1 Peter 2:7). Isaiah 28:16 is another passage built on the imagery of a stone where the current Israelite leaders are trusting in lies, but God is going to place a stone that is reliable for people to trust.² This passage also came to be understood as a messianic passage referring to Christ. The rock/stone in our current passage is probably referring to either Christ himself or Peter's confession about Christ. The point is that this rock that the church is built on will withstand all of hell's forces because Christ functions as both the cornerstone/rock and also the builder.

Literary Context: The progression of the gospel of Matthew and even the other synoptic gospels (Mark and Luke) is fascinating. Peter's accurate profession of Christ marks a transition point in the gospel. In Mark, the confession is exactly at the half-way point of the gospel in chapter 8 (Mark 8:27-30). The progression of the disciple's knowledge of Christ has grown and we see the light bulb come on in Peter's statement that Jesus is the long-awaited Jewish messiah, but more than that, God's unique Son (Matthew 16:16). While they do not have full understanding of Christ's mission (Matthew 16:22), there is gradual growth in knowledge that is evident. Different from the Pharisees and Sadducees, they do not demand any signs before they believe Jesus' identity as God's Son (Matthew 16:1-4). The hardness of heart that they had earlier seems to be slowly softening the longer they are with Jesus (Mark 6:52), because the Father is slowly giving them more and more revelation (Matthew 16:17).

3. Questions About the Passage

- a. By Jesus asking the disciples a question using the "Son of Man" statement, what do you think he was trying to show them? (Daniel 7:13)
- b. What blessing did Peter receive that Jesus was talking about in Matthew 16:17? How does this blessing humble us before God?
- c. What are the "keys of the kingdom of heaven" in Matthew 16: 19 and what authority is Jesus giving to the disciples?
- d. Peter went from high praise (blessed are you (Matthew 16:17)) to a low rebuke (get behind me Satan (Matthew 16:23)). What was Peter's downfall in this situation?

4. From the Passage to Life

- a. Do you confess Jesus to be the Messiah (The Christ) and if you do, how has this moved from an intellectual belief to a life pursuit?
- b. How can we apply Matthew 16:19 into our lives as followers of Jesus Christ? How can we implement this in a loving way while holding to gospel truth?
- c. What lessons can be learned from Peter in this account?
- d. How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus told them not to tell anyone about his identity? Have you ever been told to not share good news that could help someone? What was teaching them?

1 Nancy deClaissé, Rolf A. Jacobson, and Beth LaNeel Tanner, The Book of Psalms, NICOT (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014), 868.

2 John Nolland, The Gospel of Matthew, NIGTC (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005), 671.