

Summary

In this sermon, Pastor Chris Rumfelt explores the profound question "Who is Jesus to you?" using Matthew 16:13-20 as his text. He sets the scene at Caesarea Philippi, a place of pagan worship and idolatry where Jesus deliberately chose to ask His disciples about His identity. The pastor contrasts what the world thinks about Jesus (comparing Him to John the Baptist, Elijah, or Jeremiah) with what various religions claim about Him, before emphasizing Peter's powerful confession: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

The sermon emphasizes that Jesus is not merely a good teacher or prophet as many religions and movements suggest, but truly God incarnate. Pastor Chris walks through the alphabet highlighting Jesus' attributes and titles from A to Z, reinforcing that Jesus is the divine Son of God who purchased the Church with His blood. He concludes by reminding the congregation that the gates of hell shall not prevail against Christ's church, and challenges listeners to consider who Jesus truly is to them personally.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts and minds, ready to receive what You have for us. As we discuss who Jesus truly is, we ask that You would reveal Him to us in new and powerful ways. Lord, just as You revealed to Peter that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, we pray that You would deepen our understanding and strengthen our faith. Help us to see beyond the world's limited view of Jesus and embrace the fullness of who He is. Guide our conversation today and may each person leave with a clearer vision of Jesus in their lives. In His mighty name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

If you could have dinner with any historical figure (besides Jesus), who would you choose and why?

Key Verses

- Matthew 16:13-16
- Matthew 16:18
- John 10:30
- Colossians 2:9
- John 1:14

Questions

- In the sermon, we heard about how Jesus deliberately took His disciples to a pagan area to ask them about His identity. Why do you think Jesus chose this specific setting to ask this important question?
- Pastor Chris mentioned that many people in the world have an "erroneous understanding of who Jesus is." What are some common misconceptions about Jesus that you've encountered in your own life?
- Peter's confession "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" was a pivotal moment. What do you think gave Peter the courage to make such a bold declaration in that environment?
- The sermon highlighted how different religions view Jesus. How has your understanding of who Jesus is changed or deepened throughout your faith journey?
- Pastor Chris emphasized that "the gates of hell shall not prevail against" the church. How does this promise give you comfort in your personal struggles?
- Pastor Chris went through the alphabet highlighting different attributes and titles of Jesus. Which of these resonated with you most deeply and why?
- How does your answer to the question "Who is Jesus to you?" affect how you live your daily life?
- What practical steps can we take to help others understand who Jesus truly is rather than settling for a limited view of Him?

Life Application

This week, I challenge you to intentionally reflect on who Jesus truly is to you personally. Take time each day to write down one attribute or title of Jesus from the sermon (or from Scripture) and meditate on what that means for your life. Then, find one opportunity to share with someone else - whether a believer or non-believer - who Jesus really is beyond the cultural misconceptions. Just as Jesus asked His disciples in a pagan setting, look for chances to declare your faith in environments where it might be challenging. Remember, the gates of hell shall not prevail against your testimony when it's built on the solid rock of who Christ truly is.

Key Takeaways

- Jesus deliberately asked His disciples about His identity in a pagan setting to test their faith and commitment outside their comfort zone.
- Many religions and movements diminish Jesus to merely a good teacher, prophet, or moral example, but Scripture reveals Him as God incarnate.

- Peter's confession that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the living God" is the rock upon which the church is built, not Peter himself.
- Jesus has promised that "the gates of hell shall not prevail" against His church, giving believers confidence in spiritual warfare.
- Jesus is not just one thing - He encompasses all divine attributes from A to Z, making Him worthy of our complete devotion and worship.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, we stand in awe of who You truly are - not just a good man or a prophet, but the Christ, the Son of the living God. Thank You for revealing Yourself to us through Your Word and by Your Spirit. We confess with Peter that You are the Messiah, the Anointed One who came to save us. Forgive us for the times we've diminished You or failed to acknowledge Your deity and lordship. As we leave this discussion, help us to carry the truth of who You are into every area of our lives. May we boldly proclaim You in a world full of misconceptions and half-truths. Thank You that the gates of hell cannot prevail against Your church or against those who put their trust in You. Strengthen our faith and deepen our love for You, our Almighty God, Begotten Son, Christ, Divine Savior, and everything from A to Z that You are. In Your powerful name we pray, Amen.