

Who Do You Say That I Am? Mt. 16:13-18

Thesis: To help us better understand that Jesus is the Christ; and to learn the implications of that belief.

Introduction:

- A. This is one of the greatest passages that we have in the New Testament.
- B. In it, Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Son of the living God.”
- C. Today, we will notice this great passage and some implications of it.

I. Jesus asked His disciples a very important question concerning what others thought about Him (16:13-14).

A. He asked, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” (16:13)

- 1. This was an extremely important question for the disciples to answer.
- 2. Jesus wanted to know what others thought about Him.

B. The disciples say that others are comparing Jesus to three specific individuals (16:14).

- 1. John the baptizer
 - a. John was preaching in the wilderness of Judea and preparing the way of the Lord (Mt. 3:1-12).
 - b. John knew the greatness of Jesus because of what he said.
 - 1) John 3:30 - He must increase, but I must decrease.
 - 2) John was the great prophet of the time of Jesus.
 - c. Herod knew the greatness of John.
 - 1) When Herod heard of the works of Jesus, he thought it was John raised from the dead (Mt. 14:1-2).
 - 2) It is at this point that we read of the death of John (remember, he died in defending the word of the Lord).
- 2. Elijah
 - a. Elijah was considered one of the greatest prophets of Israel.
 - b. It was Elijah who challenged the prophets of Baal and was given a great victory (I Kgs. 18:20-40).
 - c. Elijah also appeared with Moses on the mount of transfiguration (Mt. 17:1-13) when they spoke with Jesus about His upcoming death.
 - d. The legacy of Elijah lived on throughout the time of the New Testament and continues even today.
 - e. Elijah was a great prophet, and some of those in this time were comparing Jesus to him.
- 3. Jeremiah
 - a. Jeremiah was also one of the greatest prophets for Judah.
 - b. Jeremiah was a prophet in Judah when they were taken away into the Babylonian captivity.

- c. Jeremiah prophesied about a great deal Christ.
- 4. Some even said that Jesus was one of the other prophets.
 - a. Even if others did not know exactly which prophet Jesus was like the most, they said that He was a prophet.
 - b. The people knew that Jesus was a great man and a great prophet.
- 5. The point is that the people did not realize exactly who Jesus was.
 - a. By comparing Jesus to these prophets, they are aligning Him with the greatest men of God that ever lived.
 - b. However, they did not understand exactly how great Jesus was.

II. Jesus then asked His disciple who they say that He is (16:15-17).

A. Jesus made this question personal for His disciples (16:15).

- 1. Jesus says, "But who do you say that I am?"
- 2. It really did not matter what others thought of Jesus; it only mattered what His disciples thought about Him.
- 3. It is as if Jesus is asking us this question directly today.
 - a. If we think (as others did) that Jesus is just a good man, maybe even a prophet, we will live like it.
 - 1) We may devote one hour a week to worship Him because of what others think.
 - 2) However, we will not even give Jesus a second thought during the other 167 hours of the week.
 - 3) Instead, we will live like reprobates until the next Sunday when we play church again.
 - b. If, however, we answer the question like Peter, we will devote our lives completely to His cause.
 - 1) We will continually come to worship Him.
 - 2) We will give ourselves always to His service and His church.

B. Peter tells Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (16:16).

- 1. Peter was always one to speak quickly.
 - a. Sometimes when Peter spoke, he got himself into trouble.
 - 1) Peter was the one who tested Jesus by asking if he could walk on the water with Him (Mt. 14:28).
 - 2) Peter was also the one who did not want Jesus to wash his feet (Jn. 13).
 - b. However, there were also times when Peter answered quickly with a great response.
 - 1) In our text, Peter confesses Jesus as the Christ.
 - 2) John 6:67-69 (When other followers of Christ were leaving Him, Peter makes a very similar statement) - Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" {68} But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. {69} Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

- 3) He was the one who preached the first gospel sermon that we have recorded (**Acts 2:14-36**).
2. This was the only true answer to this question.
 - a. In fact, Jesus says that Peter could only know this answer on one condition, and that is that God revealed it to him (**16:17**).
 - b. Because God revealed it to him, Peter, along with the other disciples, knew that Jesus was “**the Christ, the Son of the living God.**”

III. Based upon the answer that Peter gives, Jesus says that He will build His church (**16:18**).

A. This church was going to be built in the future.

1. The church was not something that was already in existence.
2. In fact, in order for the church to come into existence, Jesus was going to have to die on the cross and shed His own blood.
 - a. **Acts 20:28** (Paul speaking to the elders of the church from Ephesus in Miletus) - **Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.**
 - b. **Eph. 5:25** (Paul in comparing the church to the relationship between a husband and his wife) - **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, Christianity is a blood-bought religion; the church is a blood-bought institution; and those in it have blood-bought souls.**
3. Sometimes people feel like they have done enough for the church.
 - a. They say that it is someone else’s time to visit, clean, help others, etc.
 - b. However, until we get to the point that we can die in order to purchase the church (which we won’t), then there is still work for each of us to do.

B. This church that Jesus would build will never be destroyed.

1. **“The gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”**
2. Nothing, not even death, can destroy the church.

Conclusion:

- A. It is in this church that God places those who are saved.
 1. **Acts 2:47** - **And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.**
 2. If we are not a part of His church, then we are not saved!
- B. Today, are you a member of the blood-bought church of our Lord?
 1. This same Peter who confessed Jesus as the Son of God also tells us how to become a member of His church.
 2. **Acts 2:38** - **Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.”**