

Matthew 16:13-20

(Mat 16:13) When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" {14} They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." {15} "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" {16} Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." {17} Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. {18} And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. {19} I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." {20} Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

Who are you?

What does your name tell me about you?

What else do I need to know about you?

Who is Jesus?

Who are you

WE CONFESS THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS

I. What is the Truth about Jesus?

A. Jesus' Question

1. Son of Man - human
2. Son of Man - Messiah

B. Others' Answers

1. Jesus' day
2. Today

C. Believers' Answers

1. Disciples need the answer
2. Christ, God
3. No salvation without Truth

II. Where do we get the Truth?

A. Source for Peter

1. Not from self or other humans
2. Truth must come from God
3. Words of Jesus brought truth

B. Source for us

1. Not selves
2. Not other humans
3. Revealed by Father through Word

III. What is built upon the Truth

A. Church

1. Definition
2. Confession = rock
3. Faith on Jesus through apostles/prophets
4. Jesus promise to believers

B. Directions to church

1. Bind and loose

2. Don't talk now
- C. We are the church
 1. Believers through the Word
 2. Teach Law - bind
 3. Teach Gospel - loose
 4. NOW

IA1 Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" From the question what answer was He looking for? "Son of Man." He was truly a human being. He was the Substitute for all human beings.

2 Jesus called Himself "Son of Man" for another reason. Listen to (Dan 7:13-14) "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. { 14 } He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed." "Son of Man" was an Old Testament name for the coming Savior, the Messiah

B1 How did others answer Jesus' question? "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." If any of those were true, what would have had to have happened to John the Baptist, Elijah or Jeremiah? They would have had to rise from the dead. This was not a put down for Jesus. All these people were heroes to the people of Jesus' day. They had been used by God to bring His message to people. These statements about Jesus were all complimentary, but wrong.

2 How do people answer Jesus' question today? "He was a very important figure in history. Look at how He influenced the world. He was the greatest teacher of morality who ever lived. He was a revolutionary who attempted to change the way society works." These statements about Jesus are all complimentary, but wrong. Sad to say this is the Jesus who shows up in books, plays, operas, radio, television and the news.

C1 {15} "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Jesus didn't need to hear this answer. Why? He knew what they believed. He could see into their hearts. Who needed to hear the answer to this question? The disciples. We do. Why? It is important for us to say what we believe and to hear ourselves say what we believe.

2 {16} Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." That would be a good way for us to answer Jesus' question. Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the High Priest who sacrificed his life to pay for our sins, the Prophet who brought us God's truth, the King who rules in our hearts through His Word. Jesus is the Son of the living God, the second person of the Holy Trinity who has always existed.

3 It is important that we confess that truth as something that we believe. Why? We don't have eternal life if we don't. Jesus said: (John 14:6) "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Peter stated a couple years later: (Acts 4:12) "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

IIA1 {17} Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah." Some would have said, "Good answer." Peter had stated the truth about Jesus. Where had he gotten his answer? Jesus said, "for this was not revealed to you by man" Why couldn't Peter have figured this out on his own? Peter was not a spiritually insightful human being by nature who figured this out on his own. He was by nature a sinful human being who on his own was in spiritual darkness. Peter also had not received this truth from other human beings as the source. Human beings can transmit this truth, but they are not the source.

2 Jesus said, "Blessed are you Peter because this was revealed to you by my Father in heaven." There is only one source of truth. Who? God is the source of truth. That is where Peter received his knowledge of the truth. Whenever disciples of Jesus attempt to state the truth, we should make sure our statements come from God. Good guesses don't count. Made-up answers are probably wrong. Theories presented as truth are dishonest. Confessions of the truth must come from God.

3 The Father had brought Peter and the other disciples to the conclusion that Jesus was the Christ, the Son

of the living God.” On his own “no human being can say that Jesus is Lord.” On their own human beings “don’t accept the things of the spirit of God for they are foolishness to them.” The Father had used the words of Jesus to lead the disciples to conclude that God had broken into the history of our world by having the Son become a human in order to be the Savior.

B1 Why do we believe and say: “Jesus, you are the Christ, the Son of the living God?” Not because we were less spiritually dead than others. Not because we are smarter than others. Not because we are more spiritually insightful than others. Not because we are able to control our human nature better than others. Not because we made a decision on our own to let Jesus into our lives. We don’t believe and confess that Jesus is the Christ the son of the living God because of who or what we are.

2 Why do we believe and say: “Jesus, you are the Christ, the Son of the living God?” Not because some human being around us was very influential in our lives. Not because somebody argued us into it. Not because somebody presented it so logically that we had to accept it. We don’t believe and confess that Jesus is the Christ the son of the living God because it was revealed to us by humans.

3 We believe and confess that Jesus is the Christ the son of the living God because it was revealed to us by the Father in heaven. Our source of the truth that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God is God. God has spoken the truth to us in the Bible. The Holy Spirit has taken that truth and convinced us that it is true. God in His love for us sinners who don’t deserve to be loved continues to speak that truth to us. The Holy Spirit continues to convince us that it is true. Peter was blessed because the truth about Jesus was revealed to him by the Father in heaven. Blessed are you - blessed are we - that the truth about Jesus was revealed to us by the Father in heaven.

IIIA1 {18} And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church,” Jesus continued. The church is the group of people who believe that Jesus is the Savior. The church is the group of people who have been led to know and believe and confess the truth which Peter had just stated.

2 If you think of the church as a building, Peter and all the rest of us believers are the bricks. Jesus used a little pun here. Peter’s name meant stone. Jesus calls Peter and what Peter had just said a rock on which Jesus will build His church. Paul called Jesus the cornerstone of the church. He also called the prophets and the apostles who confessed the truth about Jesus the foundation of the church.

3 Our faith rests on Jesus the Savior who lived and died and rose to provide us with forgiveness, righteousness, and eternal life. Our faith rests on Jesus through the apostles like Peter and the prophets because it is their confessions of the truth about Jesus in the Bible which God used to bring us the truth and to convince us of the truth. That is why Jesus can say after Peter confessed the truth about Him: “On this rock I will build my church.”

4 To His believers Jesus promises: “the gates of Hades will not overcome you.” Jesus is promising that the devil will not take His truth away from us. He is promising that the devil will not take our faith away from us. He is promising that we will continue to be forgiven, covered with Jesus’ holiness, and have eternal life.

B1 Jesus also tells us what we are supposed to be doing, {19} “ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Sin locks the gate to heaven for us. Forgiveness won by Jesus’ death and holiness lived by Jesus for us unlocks it. We the believers are to announce to people that the gate to heaven is opened because of Jesus. We are to announce to people that unbelief keeps the gate locked.

2 Jesus also told his disciples what not to do. {20} Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ. Jesus had a lot of work to do yet. He had much teaching to do yet. Since many people didn’t understand who He was and what He was doing, going public with the concept that He was the Christ would cause open hostility. That would have hampered His work. So He said, “Don’t tell.” After He rose and before He ascended, He said, “Now, go and tell.”

C1 Nothing has changed, has it. We are the church - people who believe that Jesus lived and died and rose to give the world forgiveness, righteousness, and eternal life. Our faith was produced and is kept alive by the Holy Spirit using the words written down for us in the Holy Scriptures by the apostles and prophets. Those words were also confessions of their own faith. Jesus has promised us that nothing - even the devil Himself - is going to disconnect us from Him.

2 Jesus has told us what we are to be doing. We are to teach people the Law. We are to teach people that they are sinners. We are to show people that they don't perfectly love God and other people. We are to point out to people that they deserve God's punishment because of that. We are to indicate to them that the gate to an eternity with the Lord is tied shut or locked because of that.

3 We are to teach people the Gospel. We are to teach people that Jesus is the Savior. We are to show them that their sins have been washed away in His blood. We are to point out to them that they are holy in God's eyes because Jesus lived holiness for them. We are to indicate to them that an eternal relationship with the Lord is waiting for them because Jesus rose from the dead. We are to tell them that the gate to an eternity with the Lord is loosed or unlocked because of Jesus.

4 I take it back. One thing has changed. Jesus has never said to us: "Don't tell anyone that I am the Christ." So. Lord Jesus, please help me to confess the truth about You that has been given to me in the Bible.