

Matthew 16:13-28

Peter's Declaration about Jesus (13-20)

- ◆ Jesus went to the territory near the town of Caesarea Philippi, where he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” “Some say John the Baptist,” they answered. “Others say Elijah, while others say Jeremiah or some other prophet.” “What about you?” he asked them. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” “Good for you, Simon son of John!” answered Jesus. “For this truth did not come to you from any human being, but it was given to you directly by my Father in heaven. And so I tell you, Peter: you are a rock, and on this rock foundation I will build my church, and not even death will ever be able to overcome it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven; what you prohibit on earth will be prohibited in heaven, and what you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.” Then Jesus ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.
- ◆ During the times of this passage, the people knew about the coming of Christ the son of God as it had been prophesied. They were just wrong about whom they thought the son of God was; some thought it was John the baptist, others thought it was Elijah, others thought it was Jeremiah and others though it was some other prophets. When the disciples were asked the same question, Peter responded that Jesus was the son of God.
- ◆ Today we know or have heard about the son of God who is Jesus Christ, but the question today is who is Christ in our lives? Is Christ whom we call to when we need material things? when we need jobs? when we need blessings? When we need healing? When we need our earthly desires fulfilled? Or is Christ our redeemer from our sins? Our teacher for life? The bottomline is who is Christ in our lives? What do our words and actions show about Christ in our lives? To what extent does he stretch in our lives? What roles do we need him for in our lives? When do we need him in our lives?
- ◆ The answer given by Peter was from God. Same with us, it is God who will make us truly know Christ and about the kingdom. It was God who made Paul know Christ, it was God who made the disciples know Christ, without God we’ll not truly know God. We might hear about Christ but knowing Christ will be a different ball game.

Jesus Speaks about His Suffering and Death (21-28)

- ◆ From that time on Jesus began to say plainly to his disciples, “I must go to Jerusalem and suffer much from the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law. I will be put to death, but three days later I will be raised to life.” Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “God forbid it, Lord!” he said. “That must never happen to you!” Jesus turned around and said to Peter, “Get away from me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my way, because these thoughts of yours don't come from God, but from human nature.” Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you want to come with me, you must forget yourself, carry your cross, and follow me. For if you want to save your own life, you will lose it; but if you lose your life for my sake, you will find it. Will you gain anything if you win the whole world but lose your life? Of course not! There is nothing you can give to regain your life. For the Son of

Man is about to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and then he will reward each one according to his deeds. I assure you that there are some here who will not die until they have seen the Son of Man come as King.”

- ◆ What it means to follow Christ is mentioned in these verses. To follow Christ we must forget ourselves, carry our cross and follow Christ. Christ should be our number one goal or our number one purpose for living, the rest he will provide. This answers the question above, who is Christ in our lives? Christ should be our everything in our lives. Let's gain Christ in our lives and not the world.