

**Sept 5, 2021**  
La Jolla Christian Fellowship  
**The Jesus Challenge – Ep 5: Who do you say I am?**  
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

**Matthew 16:13-20**

*When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”<sup>14</sup> They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”<sup>15</sup> “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”<sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.<sup>18</sup> 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.<sup>19</sup> 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.”<sup>20</sup> Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.*

**GAME CHANGER**

Peter’s confession of Christ as Messiah represents a turning point of the entire arch of Jesus mission on earth. The personal confession of Christ as Messiah offers us the unique ability to change the personal trajectory of our life as well.

**JESUS—16:22** From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

**Peter—**

1. **A Blessing:** A divine jetstream.
2. **A Rock:** Cornerstone upon which God will build upon.
3. **A Set Of Keys** (PLURAL) to unlock the purposes and power of God.

**The Setting: Vs. 13a** *When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi...*

**WHY NOT JERUSALEM?**

- **Caesarea Philippi** ([\*/ˌsɛsəˈriːə fiˈlɪpaɪ/\*](#); [Latin](#): *Caesarea Philippi*, literally "[Philip's](#) Caesarea"; was an ancient Roman city located at the southwestern base of [Mount Hermon](#). It was adjacent to a spring, grotto and related shrines dedicated to the Greek god [Pan](#).

**Why: 1 John 3:8** *The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.*

“Some wish to live within the sound of a chapel bell, I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell.”  
- C.T. Studd

The gospel is of more use to the unsaved than the saved.

**The Questions:** The Eternal Question

1. **Vs. 13b** *“Who do people say the Son of Man is?”*
2. **Vs. 15** *“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”*

Nothing is more dangerous in wartime than to live in the temperamental atmosphere of a Gallup Poll, always feeling one's pulse and taking one's temperature. - Churchill

**1. A Blessing: Vs. 17** *Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.*

- Peter is now operating in a level of divine knowledge beyond the temporal.
  - “Blessing is not dependent upon circumstance.”
  - Blessing is released with keys.

**2. A Rock: Vs. 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.*

- Peter now has access to a cornerstone upon which Jesus Himself will build.

**3. A Set Of Keys: Vs. 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.”*

- One will notice that there is not a singular key to heaven but a set of keys.
  - **These keys are not for getting into heaven but releasing heaven**
- Knowing who Jesus is and living in that knowledge are vastly different realities.

#### **Small Group Questions:**

1. Jesus juxtaposes the question of “who do they say that I am?” with “who do you say that I am?” Why would he just not ask, who am I?
2. Jesus tells Peter that he is blessed. What does it mean to be blessed?
3. Why does Jesus use the metaphor of a Rock when speaking about kingdom building?
4. What might the plural “keys” represent when opening heaven? What do these keys literally open for us?
5. How do we better live into the power of “Who Jesus is, rather than just knowing it in our minds?”

