

**Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ**  
Matthew 16:13-28 (Mark 8:37-9:1; Luke 9:18-27)

*Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ*

<sup>13</sup> Now Jesus and His disciples came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, and (<sup>Lk 9:18</sup> as He was alone praying His disciples joined Him).. and (<sup>Mk 8:27</sup> on the road) He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” <sup>14</sup> So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup> He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and 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 commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

*Jesus Predicts His Death and Resurrection*

<sup>21</sup> From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. <sup>22</sup> Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” <sup>23</sup> But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? <sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

<sup>28</sup> “Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”

*Questions:*

1. Why did Jesus first ask who men were saying He was (public opinion)? Why would this matter to the disciples?
2. Why were there so many different opinions about Jesus at this time? How were these opinions better than what the Pharisees and other religious leaders were saying about Him?
3. What was the real question Jesus wanted them to answer? Why would He need to know exactly what they were believing before speaking plainly about what He knew was going to happen?
4. How did Peter's answer show they were thinking well beyond the other opinions? How pleased was Jesus with Peter's confession?
5. What did Jesus mean by this first mention of His church ("ekklesia"= a called out assembly)?
6. Was Jesus saying the church would be built on Peter or on the truth about who Jesus is which Peter had just expressed? (Note: The word Jesus used for rock ('petra') is different from Peter's name ('Petros')) 1 Cor 3:11
7. How would Peter and the other apostles have the keys of the kingdom? Why did they need to keep this truth about Jesus being the Messiah among themselves?
8. Jesus then told them plainly that He must die in Jerusalem. Peter again answered with what seemed a loving response, but why did Jesus rebuke him?
9. What does Jesus indicate is necessary to be His follower that goes far beyond just saying we believe in Him?
10. How must we each base our priorities in life in order to receive that which is most important?