WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

Matthew 16:1-28
Chapter 16 is a high point in Matthew’s gospel.

- Peter’s confession of Christ. Verse 16
- Jesus’ statement on the church. Verse 18
- Jesus’ statement about discipleship. Verse 24
I. WHO IS JESUS?

MATTHEW 16:1-17
The Pharisees and the Sadducees came to Jesus to test him. They wanted Jesus to show them a sign – some clear unmistakable proof that he was the Messiah. What more could Jesus have done? How many miracles do you need? Jesus said to them, “You know how to read the sky, but not the times.”
The problem wasn’t a lack of knowledge or evidence. The problem was a hard unbelieving heart.

No sign would be given except the sign of Jonah. Jesus’ death and resurrection would be the final proof.

Miracles do not compel belief, but for those who have eyes to see, they are a powerful evidence for faith.
“Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

What was the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees?

• It was their teaching.
• The Pharisees were legalists who added to God’s law their own rules and regulations.
• The Sadducees were modernists who took away from God’s law. They denied the resurrection.
Then Jesus took the disciples back into Gentile territory to Caesarea Philippi. It was a pagan city known for its worship of Baal and Pan.

“Who do people say the Son of Man is?
But what about you (plural)? Who do you say I am?
“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
You are the Christ, the Son of the God, the living One.
Peter identified Jesus as the Messiah and the divine Son of God.
II. WHAT IS THE CHURCH?
MATTHEW 16:18-20
The church is the body of Christ. It is the gathering of Jesus’ followers in every generation.

- There is the local church.
- There is the universal church.

The church is a community.
What is the rock on which the church is built?

- Peter (The Catholic view is that he was the first Pope.)
  The Protestant view is that Peter is one of the many. The church is “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.” Ephesians 2:20
- Peter’s confession of Christ. (Majority view among Protestants.)
- Christ. (Based on other passages in Scripture like I Peter 2:4-8.)
It is Jesus who will build his church.

What do the gates of Hades represent?

• Satan and his demons.
• Death.
What are the keys given to Peter?

• The gospel – entrance to the kingdom.

Peter had a unique role in the gospel that will never be repeated.

• Acts 2 – Peter was the first to preach to the Jews.
• Acts 8 – Peter has a leadership role in bringing the gospel to the Samaritans.
• Acts 10 – Peter has a leadership role in bringing the gospel to the Gentiles.
III. WHAT IS THE WAY OF THE CROSS?
MATTHEW 16:21-28
From that time on Jesus began to explain to them that he would suffer and die in Jerusalem and rise again.

Peter the rock becomes Peter the stumbling stone. “Never Lord!”

Jesus recognizes it as another attempt by Satan to keep him from going to the cross.
The pathway of discipleship is the way of the cross. We are called to:

• Self-denial. “Not my will but yours be done.”
• Take up the cross. It is absolute surrender.
• Follow Jesus. We follow his teaching, his example, his sacrifice and service.

The reward is eternal life.

Which path will we choose?
“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

Jim Elliot
Conclusion

Who is Jesus?

• He’s my Lord.
• He’s my Savior.
• He’s my friend.