

Matthew 16:13-20 **Who do you say Jesus is?**

13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

17 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. 18 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. 19 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."

20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✚ The most important question anyone may ask concerning the Gospel of Jesus, is the one Jesus Himself posed, "Who do men say that I the Son of Man am?" "Who is the Christ?" "Whose Son is He?" [Matthew 16:13-15, 22:42-45, Mark 8:27, Luke 9:18-22]
 - ✧ No one really knows who Jesus is except His real Father and no one knows who the Father is except Jesus and those to whom Jesus reveals it. [Luke 10:21-24, John 1:18]
- ✚ Men say that Jesus is:
 - ✧ John the Baptist. Herod specifically. [Matthew 14:1-2, Mark 6:14-16, 8:28, Luke 9:7-9]
 - ✧ Others said it is Elijah, or Jeremiah, or The Prophet, or one of the prophets. [Matthew 16:13-14, Mark 6:14-16, 8:27-28, Luke 9:7-9, Luke 9:18-19]
 - ✧ The question has to be faced by everyone who comes to Him by faith.
 - ✧ The identity of Jesus is crucial for saving faith to become effective, no one other than God Himself is able to provide blood of atonement that will stand for all time and cover all sins of all mankind. Jesus died once for all. [Romans 6:10, Hebrews 7:24-28, 9:11-14, 10:8-10]
- ✚ The identity of Jesus was important enough for God Himself to speak from Heaven to identify Jesus as His Own Son in whom God is well pleased. [Matthew 3:13-17, 17:1-5, Mark 1:11, 9:7, Luke 1:35, 3:22, 9:35]
- ✚ John was told by the One Who sent him to preach how to identify Jesus, and John bore witness as to the identity of Jesus, "This is the Son of God." [John 1:29-34]
- ✚ Therefore, John was able to identify Who Jesus is as he introduced His Gospel of Jesus. [John 1:1-18]
- ✚ Then you add all the evidence that accompanied Jesus in His ministry, and the evidence is compelling.
 - ✧ His authoritative teachings, cleansing the leper, the many healings, calming the sea, casting out of the many demons, forgiving sins and healing the paralytic to demonstrate He has the power and authority to forgive sins, raising the daughter of the Ruler of the Synagogue from the dead, walking on the water and enabling Peter to do the same, feeding the 5,000 and the 4,000.
 - ✧ The signs He has already shown are sufficient to prove that Jesus is Jehovah of the Old Testament, and the Messiah Who was and is to come.

- ✧ Jesus fulfilled all the Scriptures of Moses, the prophets and the Psalms. [Luke 24:25-28, 44]
- ✚ Jesus asked His disciples directly, “Who do you say that I am?” [Matthew 16:15, Mark 8:29, Luke 9:18-22]
 - ✧ Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
- ✚ It is on the basis of the identity of Jesus that the Church is founded, for no other foundation can any man lay than that which is already laid, which is Christ Jesus Himself. [Matthew 16:17-18, 1 Corinthians 3:11]
- ✚ Founded on the solid rock of Jesus Christ The Son of God, makes the Gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven and the Church invincible so no power of Heaven or Earth or Hell can prevail against it. [Matthew 16:18-19, 7:24-25, Luke 6:47-48]
- ✚ The true identity of Jesus is only revealed by the Father in Heaven. [Matthew 16:17]
- ✚ The **keys of the Kingdom** are the **understanding of the Gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven**. [Matthew 13:11, 16:19, Mark 4:11, Luke 8:10]
 - ✧ Working under the authority of Jesus and His Word and in keeping with it, what ever is bound on earth is bound in Heaven, and whatever is loosed on earth is loosed in Heaven, so the binding and loosing on earth is patterned after that which is in Heaven as revealed by Holy Scripture. [Matthew 13:11, 16:19, Matthew 18:15-20, Luke 8:10]
 - ✧ This did not give Peter an arbitrary permission to go on his own and bind and loose as he feels impulsively to do, but rather, the authority to bring the revelation of the Gospel of the Kingdom in keeping with the revelations provided by God the Word and the Holy Spirit.
 - ✧ We see this in practice in the messages and writings of Peter in the book of Acts and the epistles that bear his name.
 - ✧ Peter faithfully preached the Kingdom of Heaven and interpreted the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, he successfully addressed the ones who had crucified Jesus, and showed them the way into the Kingdom. [Acts 2:14-40]
 - ✧ He addressed the ones who opposed the Gospel of the Kingdom, stood against the false teachers that came his way. [Acts 4:1-22]
 - ✧ He worked miracles and healed the lame. [Acts 3:1-62, 5:12-16]
 - ✧ He boldly took his stand as obedient to God and not to man. [Acts 4:9, 5:29-32]
 - ✧ Peter gave excellent instructions for living the Christian life as we are looking for the return of the Lord and the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven.
 - ✧ And God worked with Peter, even freeing him from prison miraculously. [Acts 5:17-42, 12:1-19]
 - ✧ Peter also took the Gospel of the Kingdom to Cornelius the Roman Centurion, and acknowledged that God had granted repentance to life to the Gentiles as well as to the Jews. [Acts 10:1-48, 11:1-18]
- ✚ Since it was too early for Jesus to be arrested and crucified, Jesus commanded them not to spread the fact of His identity publicly for the time being. [Matthew 16:20, Mark 8:30, Luke 9:21]
- ✚ The reason Jesus said not to tell anyone was expressed in the revelation of the death and resurrection of Jesus that was coming. [Matthew 16:21, Mark 8:31, Luke 9:22]