 **The Gospel of Matthew**

“Who Do You Say That I Am?”
Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He began asking His disciples, saying, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.”

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

And Simon Peter answered and said, “*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*”

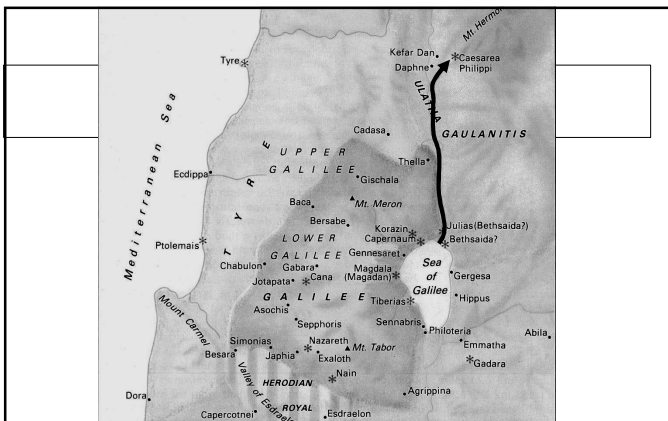
And Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.


And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ.

Matthew 16:13-20



 **Who is Jesus?**

1. The Testimony of the People

- they held Jesus in very high esteem as one of the great prophets
- they viewed Him as an end-time prophet and forerunner of Messiah



Who is Jesus?

2. The Confession of Peter

- “*Messiah*” – the climactic figure in whom God’s purpose is finally being accomplished
- “*Son of God*” – a unique, exclusive relationship to God as Father (*the deity of Jesus*)



Who is Jesus?

2. The Confession of Peter

- true knowledge of and faith in Jesus is not a product human insight but of God-given revelation/illumination



Who is Jesus?

3. The Promise to Build His Church

- “*My church*” – the assembly/community of those who by faith belong to Jesus the Messiah
- death (“gates of Hades”) will be unable to swallow up this new, messianic community



Who is Jesus?

4. The Role of Peter

A. Peter “the rock”

- “rock” (*petra*) is a deliberate pun with the name “Peter” (*petros*)
- historically Peter had a foundational role in the development of the church



Who is Jesus?

4. The Role of Peter

B. Peter and the “keys of the kingdom”

- “keys” imply authority to exclude or permit entrance into the kingdom
- by proclaiming the good news of the kingdom he will open the kingdom to many and shut it against many



Who is Jesus?

“Who do you say that I am?”