



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

The Answer that Changes Everything September 10th, 2017

(Matthew 16:13-20)

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. 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. 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.” ²⁰ Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

1. Give an example of an “all-important question” you’ve had to face in your life. What was your “all-important answer”? What might be different about your life if you had answered that question differently?
2. **Evaluate:** As true God, Jesus know some of the different answers people were throwing around about his identity. Why do you think he asked his disciples about what the people were saying? Why do you think Jesus ignored the answers of all the other people, and instead focused on what his disciples thought about him?

3. How do the answers listed in vs. 14 show that many of the people appreciated Jesus and knew he was someone special, but also failed to grasp who Jesus really was?
4. What are some different answers people might give today if asked the question, “Who is Jesus?” For each example, describe how that answer would shape their life and view of eternity.
5. Vs. 18 is often used by Catholics to defend the office of the Pope, claiming that Jesus instituted Peter as the first Pope, and then making all subsequent popes after him the foundation of the church. The Greek word Jesus uses for Peter is: Πέτρος— meaning a stone, rock, or pebble. The Greek word Jesus uses for rock is: πέτρα-- A fixed rock, rock ledge/shelf. This difference points to Jesus referring to his Church being built not on Peter, but on the confession he spoke so beautifully in vs. 16. Why is it much more comforting to know that God builds his Church on the unchanging Gospel message of Christ and not on men like Peter?
6. In vs. 19, Jesus gives the “keys of the kingdom of Heaven” to his followers to use in service to him. What are these keys, and what does Jesus mean when he talks about “binding and loosing/locking and unlocking”?
7. Why would Jesus’ promise in vs. 18 be such a comforting message for the disciples, especially after Jesus’ Ascension? Why is Jesus’ promise there also an incredibly comforting assurance for us as Christians today?