

Today's Scripture Reading: Matt. 16:13-20

- Matt. 16:13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"
- Matt. 16:14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."
- Matt. 16:15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"
- Matt. 16:16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."
- Matt. 16:17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, 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 ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

“Changing Our Minds”

Matt. 16:13-20

Rev. Milton Eng





I. Changing our minds about Jesus.

Jesus

- Matt. 16:13-14
When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

In Jesus' day ...

- Matt. 14:1
At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the reports about Jesus, 2 and he said to his attendants, "This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead! That is why miraculous powers are at work in him."
- Mal. 4:5
"See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes."

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Matt. 16:15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"
Matt. 16:16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the **Christ**, the Son of the living God."

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Matt. 16:16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the **Messiah**, the Son of the living God."

In Jesus' day ...

In our day ...



PEOPLE'S BELIEFS ABOUT
JESUS TODAY?



"BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?"

A dark, moody photograph of chess pieces. In the foreground, a small, dark chess piece (likely a pawn) is visible. To the right, a much larger, dark chess piece (likely a king or queen) stands, casting a long, sharp shadow across the surface. The background is a dark, textured wall.

II. Changing our minds about Peter.

Peter

- Matt. 16:17
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.

Who or what is the “rock”?

- “This verse has rightly been described as “among the most controversial in all of Scripture” – Donald Hagner
- “... if it were not for Protestant reactions against extremes of Roman Catholic interpretation, it is doubtful whether many would have taken “rock” to be anything or anyone other than Peter.

.....
None of this requires that conservative Roman Catholic views be endorsed ... The text says nothing about Peter’s successors, infallibility, or exclusive authority” – Don Carson

Peter's Foundational Role

- Peter was 'first among equals' of the apostles:
 - Leading role in the Gospels
 - Leading role in the Book of Acts
- But he did not have absolute authority and was not infallible:
 - Later, the authority to "bind" and "loose" is given to the other disciples:
Matt. 18:18 "I tell you the truth, whatever you (pl) bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you (pl) loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."
 - He is sent by the other apostles (Acts 8:14)
 - He is held accountable by the Jerusalem church (Acts 11:1-18)
 - He is even rebuked by apostle Paul (Gal. 2:11-14)

The Church's Foundation is the "Apostles and Prophets"

- Eph. 2:19
Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

A low-angle photograph of a highly ornate church dome, likely in a Spanish Colonial or Mexican style. The dome is covered in colorful mosaic tiles and features intricate carvings and architectural details. The sky is a clear, deep blue. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

III. Changing our minds about the church.

The Church

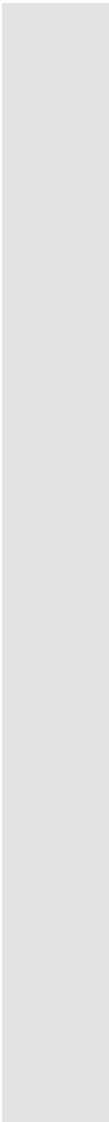
- Matt. 16:18
And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

What is the
meaning of
“and the gates
of Hades will
not overcome
it”?

- Matt. 16:18 RSV
18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will
build my church, and the powers of death shall not
prevail against it.



The Church Universal is Jesus' Church and Death Shall Not Overcome It

- “The Greek term *ekklēsia* never denotes a physical structure in the NT, but always a community of people.” – R. T. France
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Champion Forest Church, Houston

