

Who Do You Say That I Am? Matthew 16:13-19

Matthew 16:13-18 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."

The people of Jesus day knew He was more than just an ordinary man. What were some of the ideas people had of who He was?

What was Peter's very strong confession of who Jesus was?

Where did Peter get that knowledge?

What have you heard people of our day saying about who Jesus is?

How would you answer someone who doesn't yet believe in the deity of Jesus?

Our mission is to take on the gates of hell, the entrances of hell, and break them down. Jesus comes into our lives as He did with Peter and makes a powerful and declarative statement about who we can become and how we are to live. Our church is a staging area so we can go out and bring people to Jesus and help build His church.

What entrances to hell do we have in our culture that draw people Satan's way?

What does Pastor Steve mean by asking us to be living stones instead of marshmallows?

The people of Jesus' day had to choose – would they accept Jesus as the sacrificial lamb or did he have to be a political leader who would free them from Rome to be their Messiah. We also have to make a choice – whether to really trust Jesus for our needs and live according to His principles, or to trust the world system to provide for us, and let them tell us how to live. What choice are you making?

Luke 19:41-44 But as they came closer to Jerusalem and Jesus saw the city ahead, He began to cry. I wish that even today you would find the way of peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from you. Before long your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle you and close in on you. They will crush you to the ground, and your children with you. Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place, because you have rejected the opportunity God offered you.

Why did Jesus weep over Jerusalem?

If God judged Israel – the “apple of His eye”—what do you think will happen if we let America keep sliding into depravity?

Is Jesus crying over us for rejecting the opportunity God has offered us to be a light to the world?

What can we do to help turn our nation back to God?

Read 2 Chronicles 7:14 and pray for spiritual revival in our land, beginning with the Church.