

Jesus – Who is this Jesus?

Matt. 16:13-20.

1. Read Matt. 16:13-20
2. Why did Jesus choose this site for this question?
3. Regarding the text:
 - (1) The area was scattered with temples for Baal worship
 - (2) Adjoining Caesarea Philippi was the great hill with a deep cavern said to be the birthplace of Pan, the god of nature. So strong was the association of Pan with Caesarea that its original name was Panias. Today the area is named Banias.
 - (3) The population was largely Gentile, Greek and Syrian.

DISCUSSION:

- I. Some say, John the Baptist, others Elijah, others Jeremiah others one of the prophets
 1. John the Baptist – Similar to Jesus – they both taught the same doctrine –
 - (1) The Kingdom of heaven and Repentance
 - (2) Herod's men made a similar claim
 2. Elijah – Fulfilled the Malachi prophecy, Mal. 3:1, 23; 2 Kgs . 2:11
 - (1) Matt. 11:14 – He is the Elijah who was to come.
 - (2) Jesus said John the Baptist was the Elijah that was to come.
 3. Jeremiah – this tradition based on 2 Macabees 2:1-8
 - (1) Similarity seen in the preaching of Jesus – denunciation of the sins of the age and the sorrow He felt for the people mirrors the prophetic work of Jeremiah.
 4. One of the prophets – two-fold.
 - (1) The prophet like Moses who was to come, Deut. 18:15

II. You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

III. Previous confessions that Jesus was the Messiah

1. John the Baptist –

(1) The Lamb of God that takes the sin of the world, John 1:29

(2) I testify that this is the Son of God, John 1:34;

2. Nathaniel - John 1:49 – You are the Son of God, the King of Israel.

3. The Samaritan woman and the Samaritan villagers, John 4:25, 42.

4. The apostles – Matt. 14:33 – Truly, You are the Son of God

5. Martha – John 11:27 – “I believe you are the Christ, the Son of God who was to come into the world.”

6. Peter – John 6:68 – To whom shall we go ... We believe and are sure

IV. The Twelve

1. Previous confessions were under the pressure of responses to miraculous occurrences, past or present. They were exclamations of this divine truth but lacked the level of depth of conviction that Jesus wanted of the apostles.

2. This new confession comes after much reflection and serious thought. It is the calm expression of a settled conviction.

3. This is the level of conviction needed for the disciples to make the journey to Calvary.

v. “The Christ” – There is a three-fold fulfillment in this term.

1. It means “the anointed one” in its messianic usage.

(1) Aaron and his sons were anointed and designated High Priest, Lev. 8.

(2) Prophets were anointed to signify that God approved the utterances they gave,

1 Kgs. 19:16

(3) Kings were anointed to signify who God wanted to rule His people.

2. This great confession is a confession of this threefold content of conviction. This confession says,

(1) Jesus of Nazareth fulfills the prophetic office of God, bringing final word

from God in His own person and through His work. Heb. 1:1-3; 2:1-3; John

1:1-3, 18. – “No one has ever seen God...but the One and only...”

(2) Jesus is our only High Priest and Mediator, who in his own body made

adequate and complete sacrifice for our sins and the sin of the whole world.

At the right hand of God, He continues His priestly work, being our one and

only Mediator, He is making intercessions for us.

(3) Jesus is our King, hence we submit to His rule, power and authority and we

enthrone Him as our Lord. Matt. 28:18

VI. Son of the Living God – corrects any false impressions about the Messiah.

1. The backdrop of Caesarea Philippi was that of dead idols. Jer. 10:6-10

2. Jesus is the living God!

(1) John 1:1-3; -

(2) Rev. 1:17-18. - I am alive for evermore

(3) John 20:28 – My Lord and My God

3. Conversion to Jesus Christ means turning from idols to the Living God,

I Thess. 1:9 – “You turned from Idols to serve the living and true God.”

(1) Greek – reason is god – leads to atheism and skepticism;

- (2) Gentile – paganism – witchcraft; etc
- (3) Judaism – religion of the past
- (4) Syrian – Eastern mystic religions
- (5) All are superseded by the Kingdom of God which is the Church of Christ.

VII. Who is this Jesus? He is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Here' how He describes Himself: I AM --

- 1. The Bread of Life – John 6:35,41,48,51
- 2. The Door – John 10:7-9
- 3. The Good Shepherd – John 10:11,14; Psalm 23
- 4. The Way the Truth and The Life – John 14:6
- 5. The Light of the World – John 8:12; 9:5; 12:46; Luke 2:32
- 6. The True Vine – John 15:1,5
- 7. The Resurrection and the Life – John 11:25
- 8. The First and the Last – Rev. 1:17; 2:8; 22:13

Conclusion:

- 1. We must go to Jesus, John 5:40; 6:35-37, 45,65; 7:37.
 - (1) Jesus gives eternal life – John 10:28; 5:40
 - (2) Jesus gives joy – John 15:11
 - (3) Jesus gives peace – John 14:27
 - (4) Jesus has all authority – Matt. 28:18; John 5:26-27; 17:2; 3:35
 - (5) Jesus judges – John 5:22,27
 - (6) Jesus saves forever – Matt. 18:11; John 10:28; Heb. 7:25.
- 2. Do you know Him? We invite you come to Him, believe, repent and be baptized; Or repent and confess your sins and rededicate your life to Him. As we stand and sing the invitation.