

Advent 2020

Jesus: Prophet, Priest, King

Jesus as Messiah
Matthew 16:13-20
December 20, 2020

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
- Matthew 16:15-16

I. LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

- The setting for our text takes place near Caesarea Philippi, an especially pagan city, reputed birthplace of the god Pan, with a temple to the emperor Caesar Augustus.
- Roman religion, including all that Caesarea Philippi represented, was known for its "syncretism," the merging together of multiple religious ideas and/or deities.
- Here, where the seduction of syncretism was prominent, Jesus demanded a decision from his disciples (Matt. 16:13; Mark 8:29).

II. MESSIAH REVEALED

- Jesus is revealed as "Son of Man," "the Christ," and "Son of the living God" (Matt. 26:63-64; John 4:29).
- "Christ:" The Greek equivalent of the Hebrew word *HaMashaich*, meaning "Messiah." The term literally means "Anointed one" (Ex. 29:7, 21; 1 Sam. 10:1; 16:13; 2 Sam. 1:14-16).
- In Jewish history, three types of individuals were ceremonially anointed with oil: prophets, priests, and kings (Ex. 40:12-15; 1 Sam. 16:12-13; Ps. 105:15).

III. THE MESSIAH'S CHURCH

- Built on Peter's confession that Jesus is Messiah (vs. 18).
- Indestructible and on the march (vs. 18).
- With the keys to the kingdom and the power to bind and loose (vs. 19; John 20:21-23; Acts 20:20-23).

KNOW: Jesus is the Messiah or the Christ, the Anointed One.

DO: Consider Jesus' question yourself. Who do you say he is?

Suggested Reading:

For Children:

A Jesus Christmas by Barbara Reaoch (LifePoint Library #394 REA).

For Adults:

Who is Jesus: Crucial Questions Series by R.C. Sproul
(LifePoint Library #CQ SPR)

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis (LifePoint Library #230 LEW)

Advanced Reading:

The Person of Christ: Contours of Christian Theology by Donald Macleod (Available soon in the LifePoint Library)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Matthew 16:13-20

1. Why, do you think, did Jesus ask such a pointed question of his disciples?
2. What about this confession makes Peter's denial of Jesus so poignant (see Luke 22:34)?
3. Why did God reveal this reality to Peter and not to the other disciples? Or do you think they believe Jesus to be the Messiah but were too fearful to speak up?
4. Who is Jesus to you? In what ways, if any, has he transformed your life?
5. What will Jesus build his church upon? Peter? Jesus? Peter's confession? What are your thoughts here?
6. What is your primary takeaway from Sunday's message?